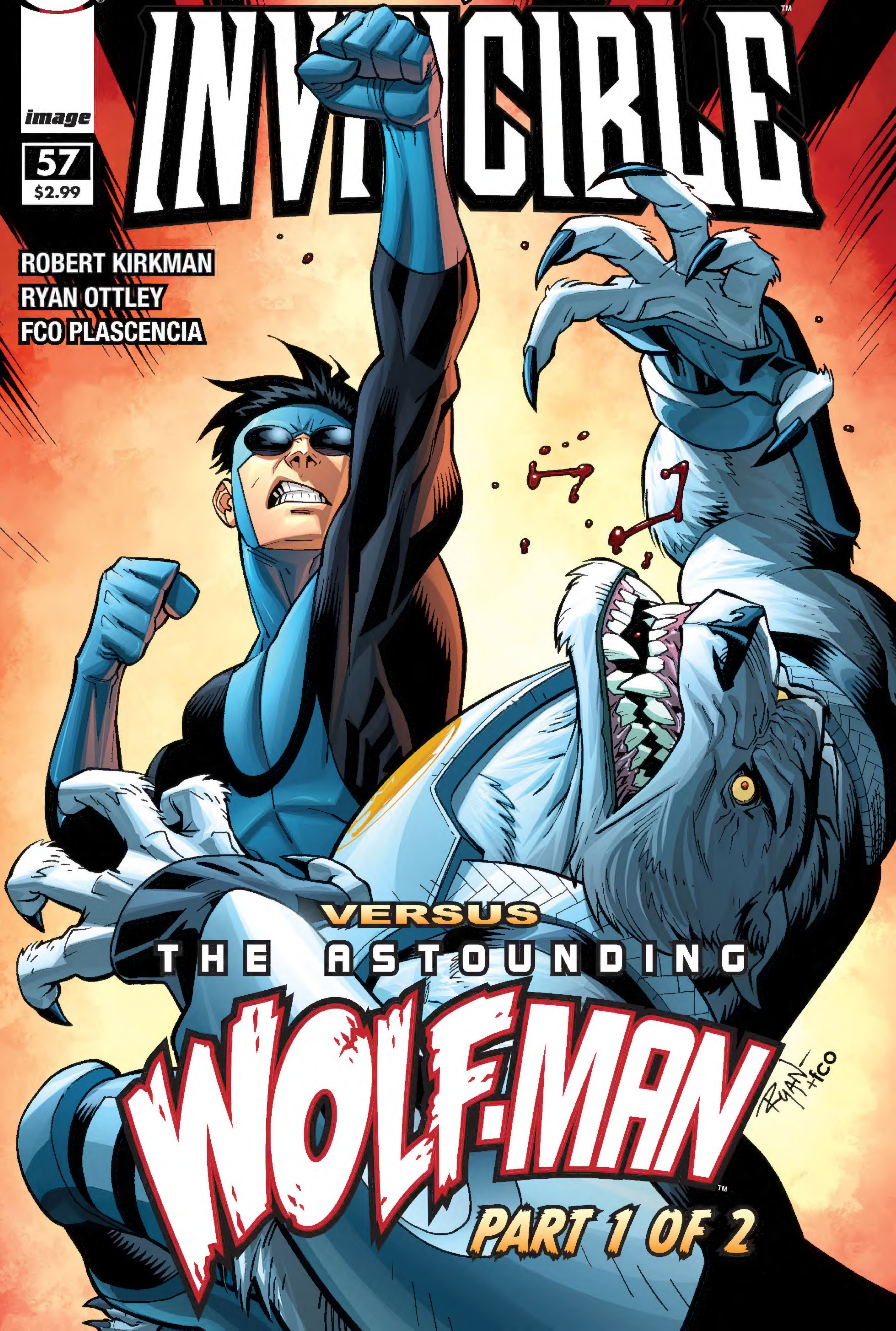


 **image**
57
\$2.99

THE ALL-NEW, ALL-AWESOME

INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
RYAN OTTLEY
FCO PLASCENCIA



VERSUS
THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN

PART 1 OF 2

image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER

CLIFF RATHBURN
INKER

FCO PLASCENCIA
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

AUBREY SITTERSON
EDITOR

COVER BY RYAN OTTLEY & FCO PLASCENCIA

INVINCIBLE CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER

THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & JASON HOWARD

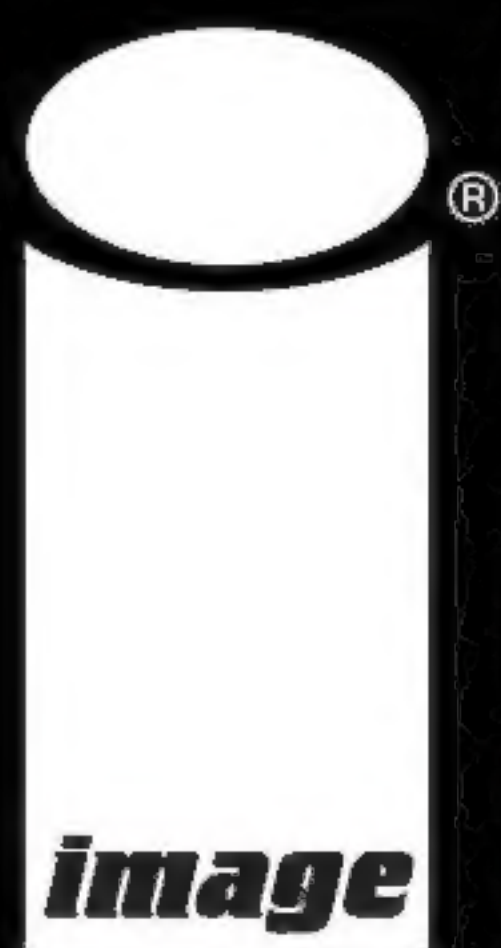


IMAGE COMICS, INC.

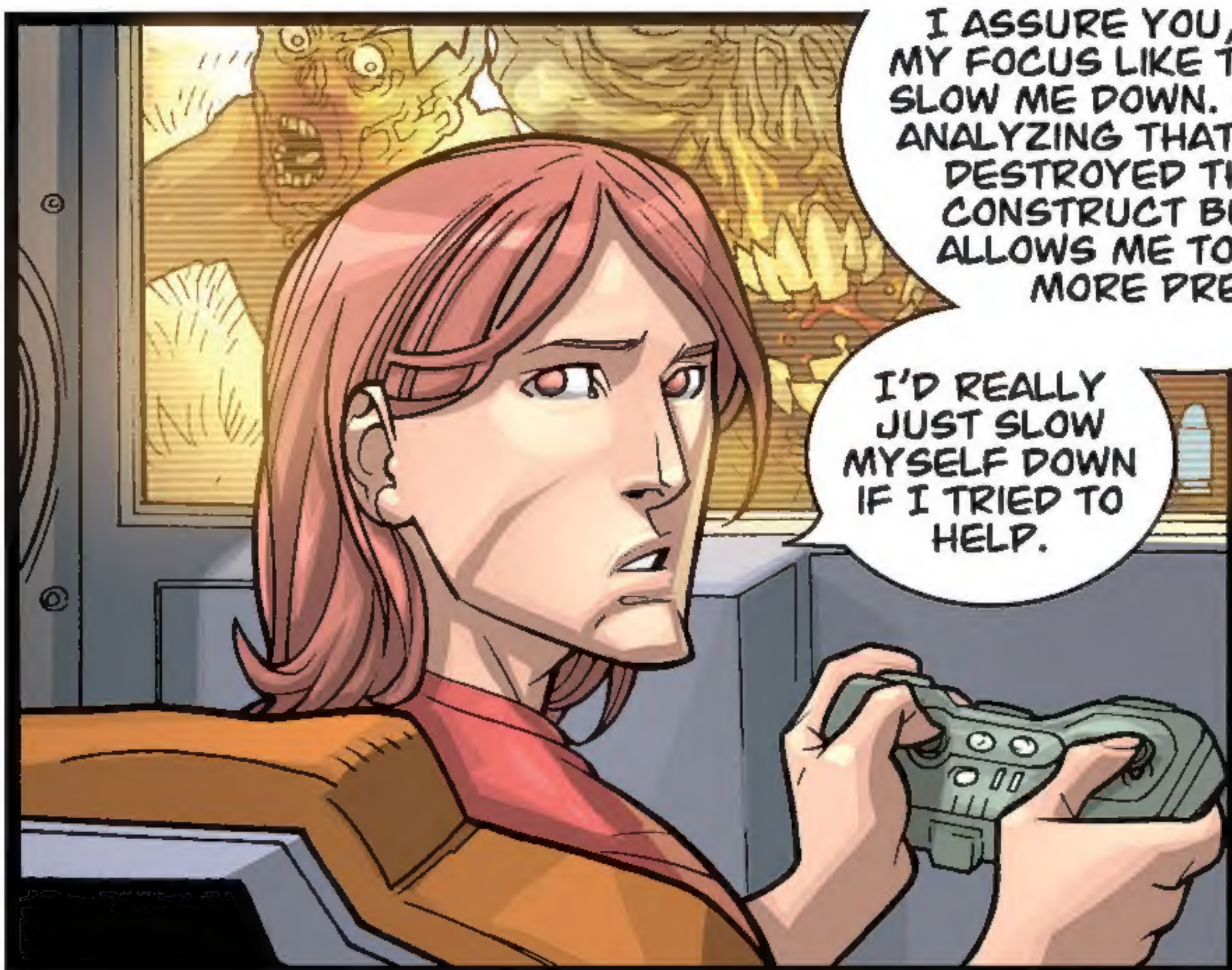
Robert Kirkman - chief operating officer
Erik Larsen - chief financial officer
Todd McFarlane - president
Marc Silvestri - chief executive officer
Jim Valentino - vice-president

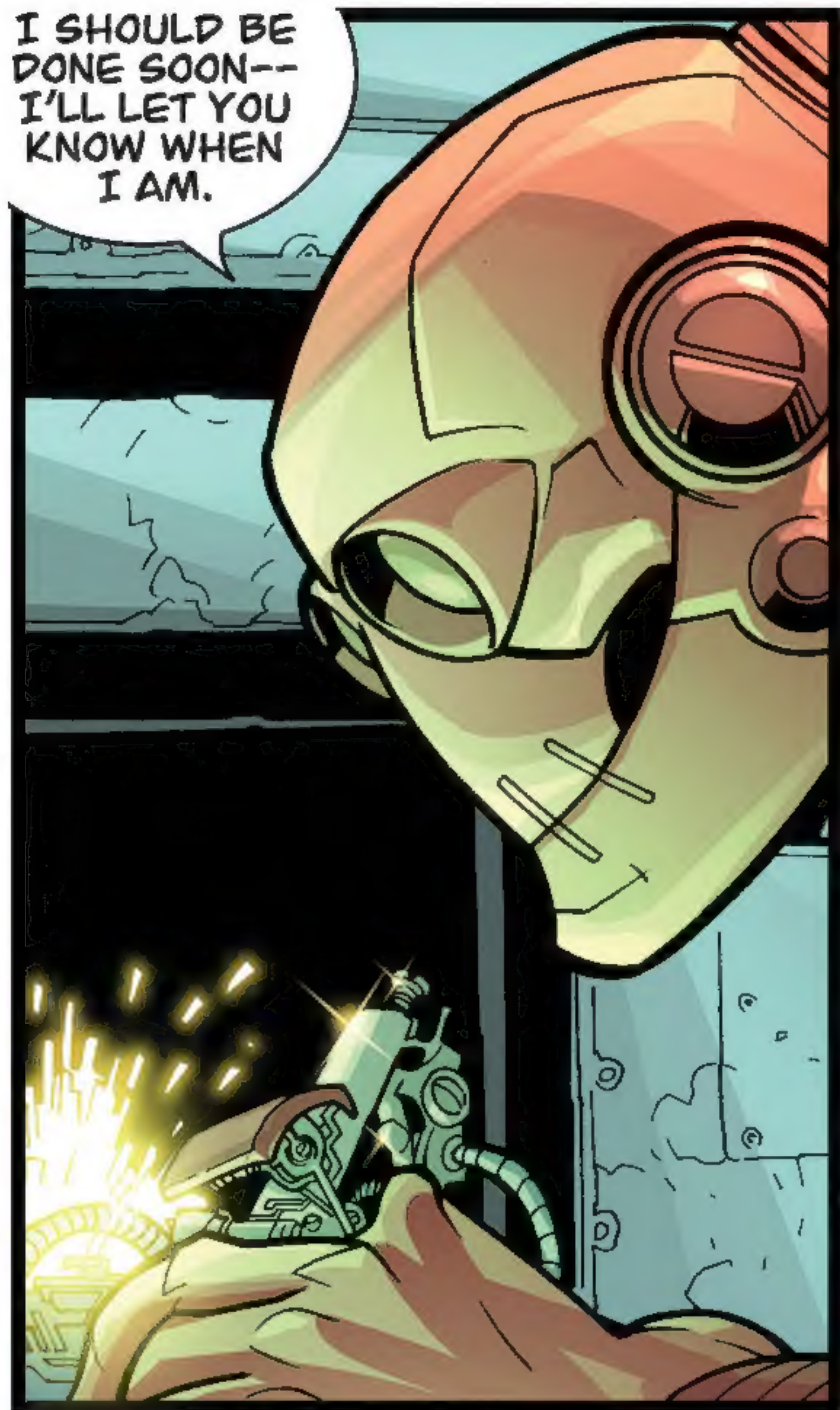
ericstephenson - publisher
Joe Keatinge - pr & marketing coordinator
Branwyn Bigglestone - accounts manager
Tyler Shainline - administrative assistant
Traci Hui - traffic manager
Allen Hui - production manager
Drew Gill - production artist
Jonathan Chan - production artist
Monica Howard - production artist

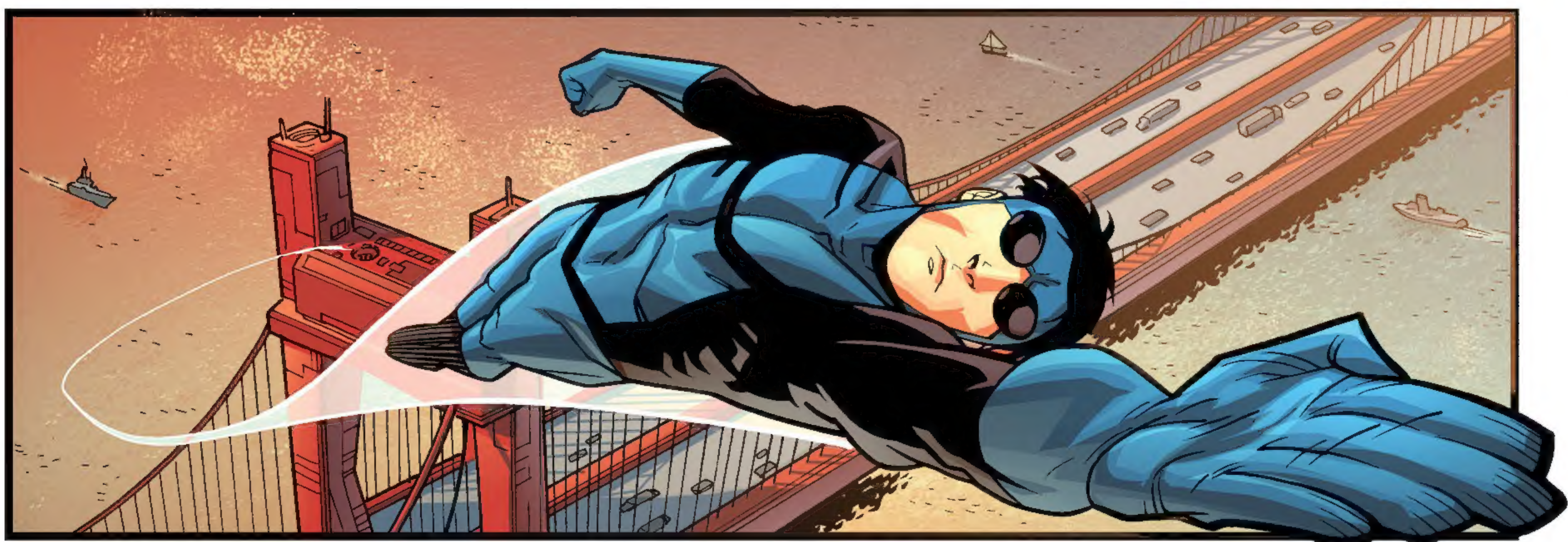
www.imagecomics.com

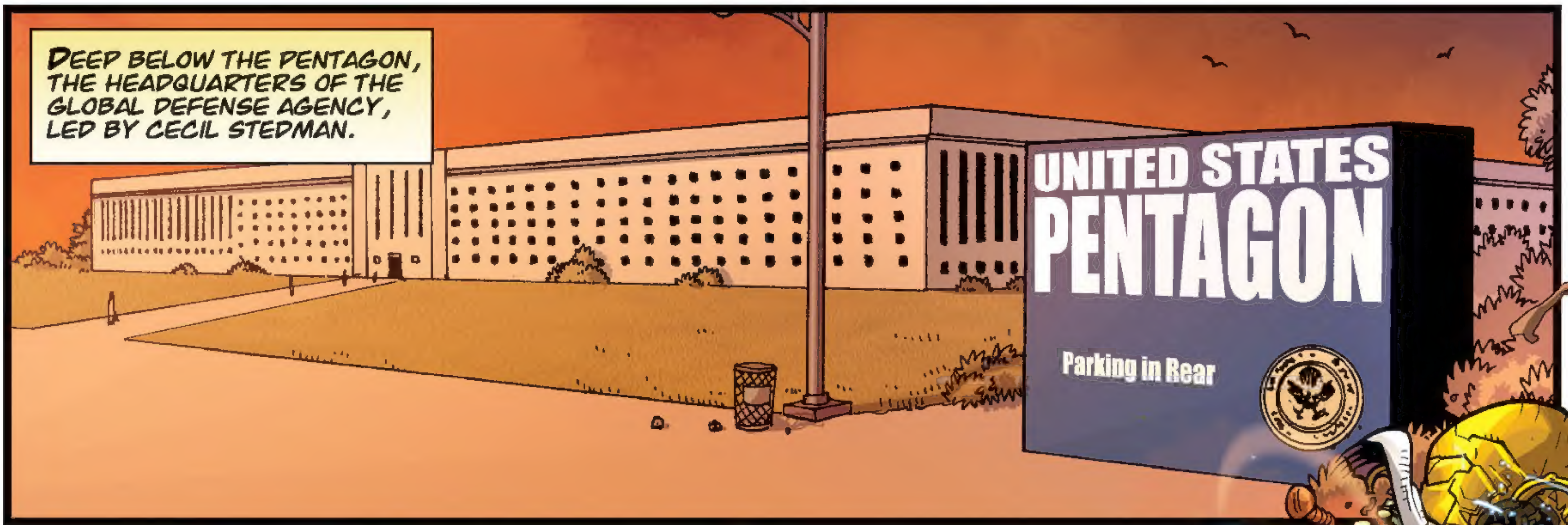
INVINCIBLE #57. December 2008. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2008 Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker. All rights reserved. INVINCIBLE™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman & Cory Walker, unless otherwise noted. THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN is © and ™ 2008 Robert Kirkman and Jason Howard. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.

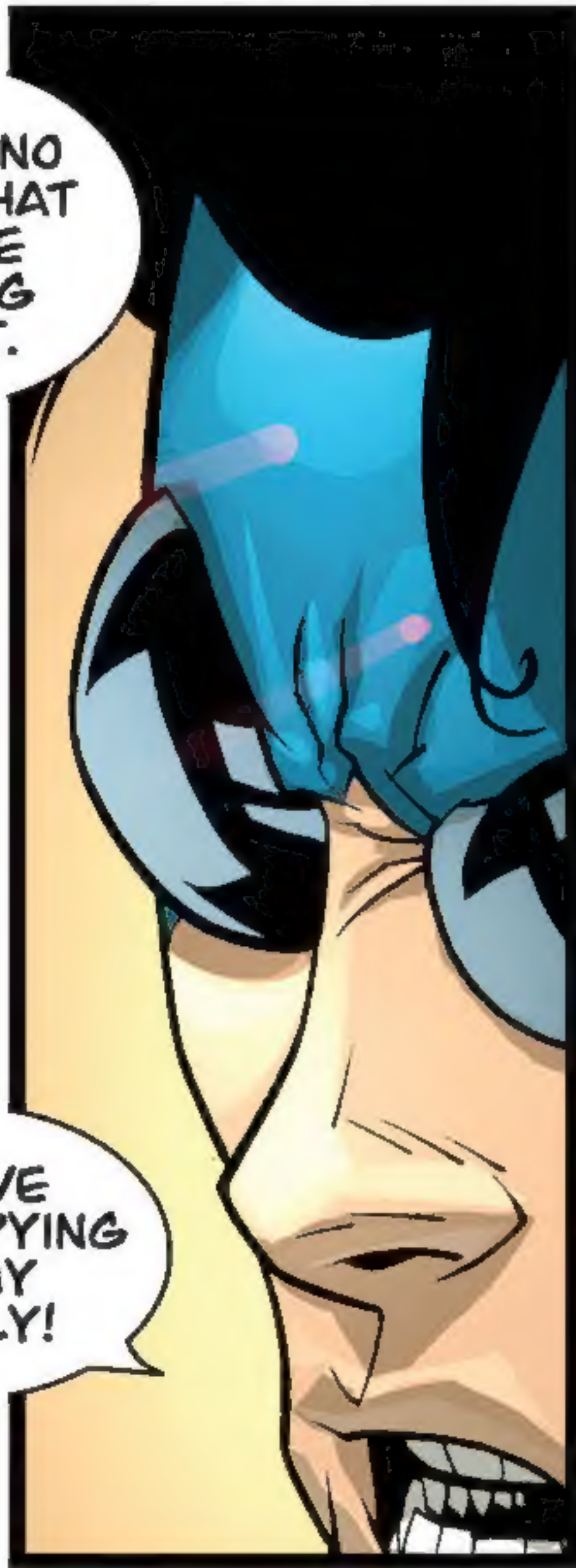
International Rights Representative: Christine Jensen (christine@gfloydstudio.com)

















NO WAY!
ARE YOU
KIDDING
ME?!

OF COURSE
NOT--WHY IN THE
WORLD WOULD I
HELP YOU? I DON'T
WORK FOR YOU, CECIL--
I DON'T LIKE YOU.



GET REAL HERE, KID.
YOU THINK FOR A MINUTE
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SLEEP
TONIGHT KNOWING THIS
GUY IS OUT THERE--
KNOWING WHAT
HE DID?

I KNOW
YOU TOO
WELL.

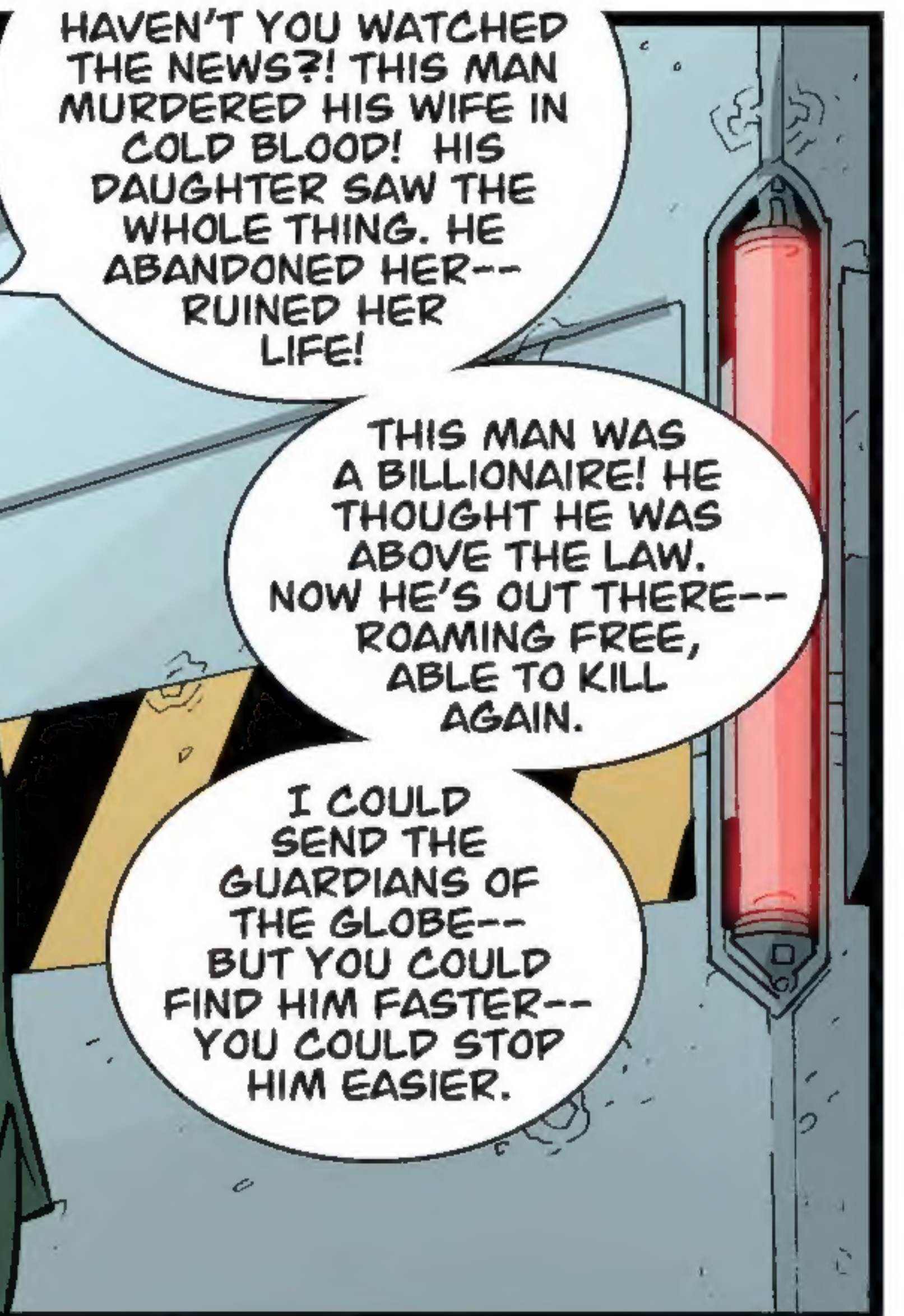


LOOK, KID--
YOU THINK WE
WANT TO ASK
FOR THIS? I
TRIED TO TAKE
THIS GUY
OUT--AND I
FAILED.

HE'S TOUGH--
BUT YOU COULD
PROBABLY GET
THIS GUY FOR US
IN AN AFTERNOON.



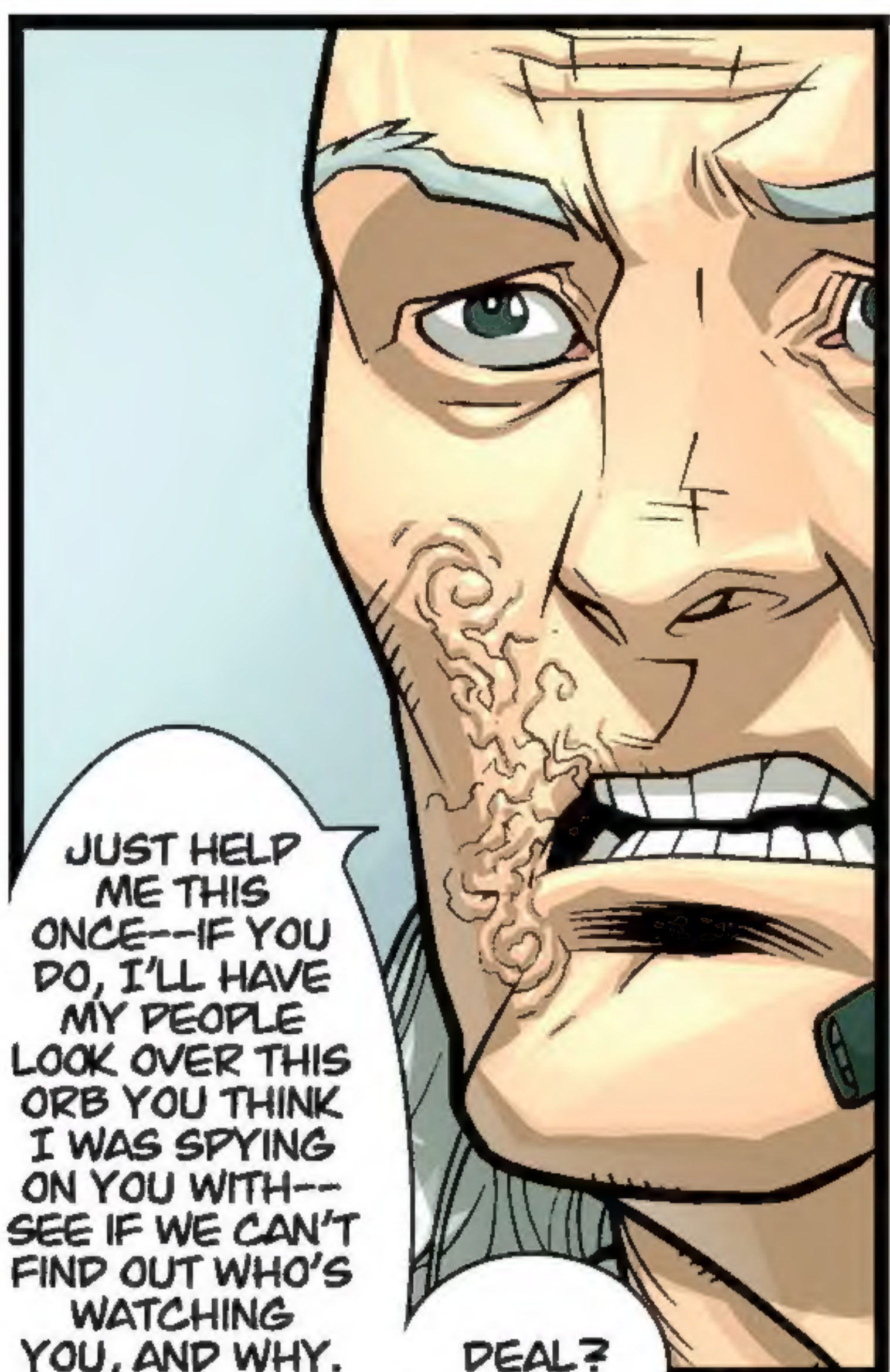
EXCEPT--
Y'KNOW--
I DON'T
TRUST
YOU
PEOPLE!



HAVEN'T YOU WATCHED
THE NEWS?! THIS MAN
MURDERED HIS WIFE IN
COLD BLOOD! HIS
DAUGHTER SAW THE
WHOLE THING. HE
ABANDONED HER--
RUINED HER
LIFE!

THIS MAN WAS
A BILLIONAIRE! HE
THOUGHT HE WAS
ABOVE THE LAW.
NOW HE'S OUT THERE--
ROAMING FREE,
ABLE TO KILL
AGAIN.

I COULD
SEND THE
GUARDIANS OF
THE GLOBE--
BUT YOU COULD
FIND HIM FASTER--
YOU COULD STOP
HIM EASIER.



JUST HELP
ME THIS
ONCE--IF YOU
DO, I'LL HAVE
MY PEOPLE
LOOK OVER THIS
ORB YOU THINK
I WAS SPYING
ON YOU WITH--
SEE IF WE CAN'T
FIND OUT WHO'S
WATCHING
YOU, AND WHY.

DEAL?

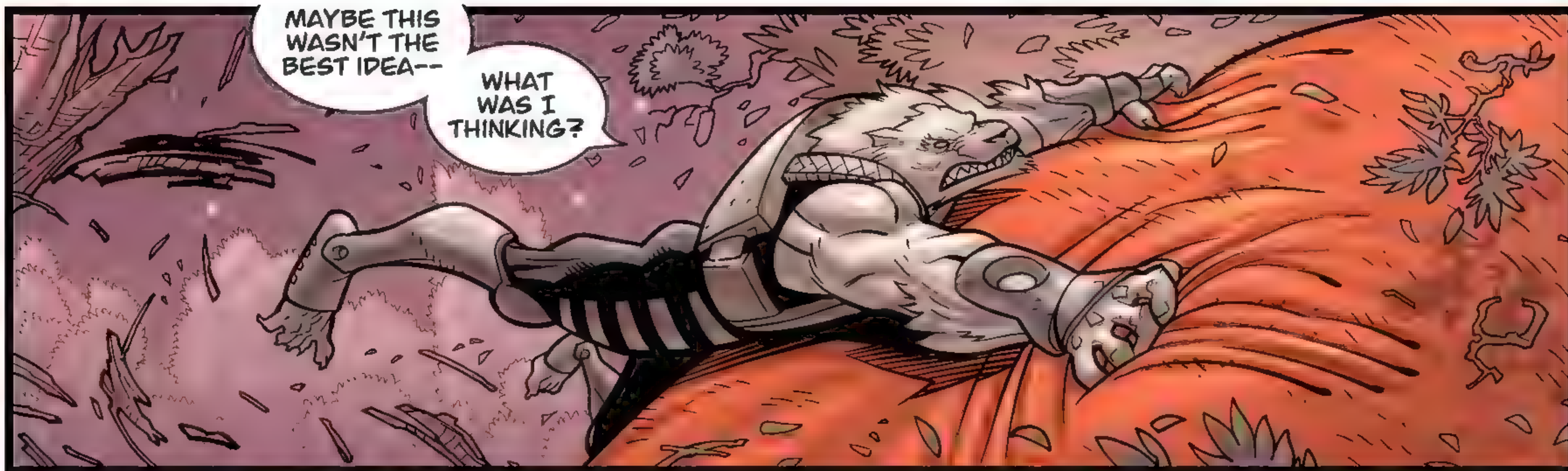


I DON'T THINK YOU HAVE
ANYONE SMARTER THAN
ROBOT ON STAFF--SO
THAT OFFER DOESN'T
MEAN MUCH.



CRAP--WE'VE GOT
A PROBLEM. THE GIANT
HAS ESCAPED AND
IS ON A RAMPAGE--HE'S
TEARING THROUGH--
WELL--THE EXACT SAME
REGION WOLF-MAN
WAS LAST SEEN.

TWO BIRDS
WITH ONE
STONE?



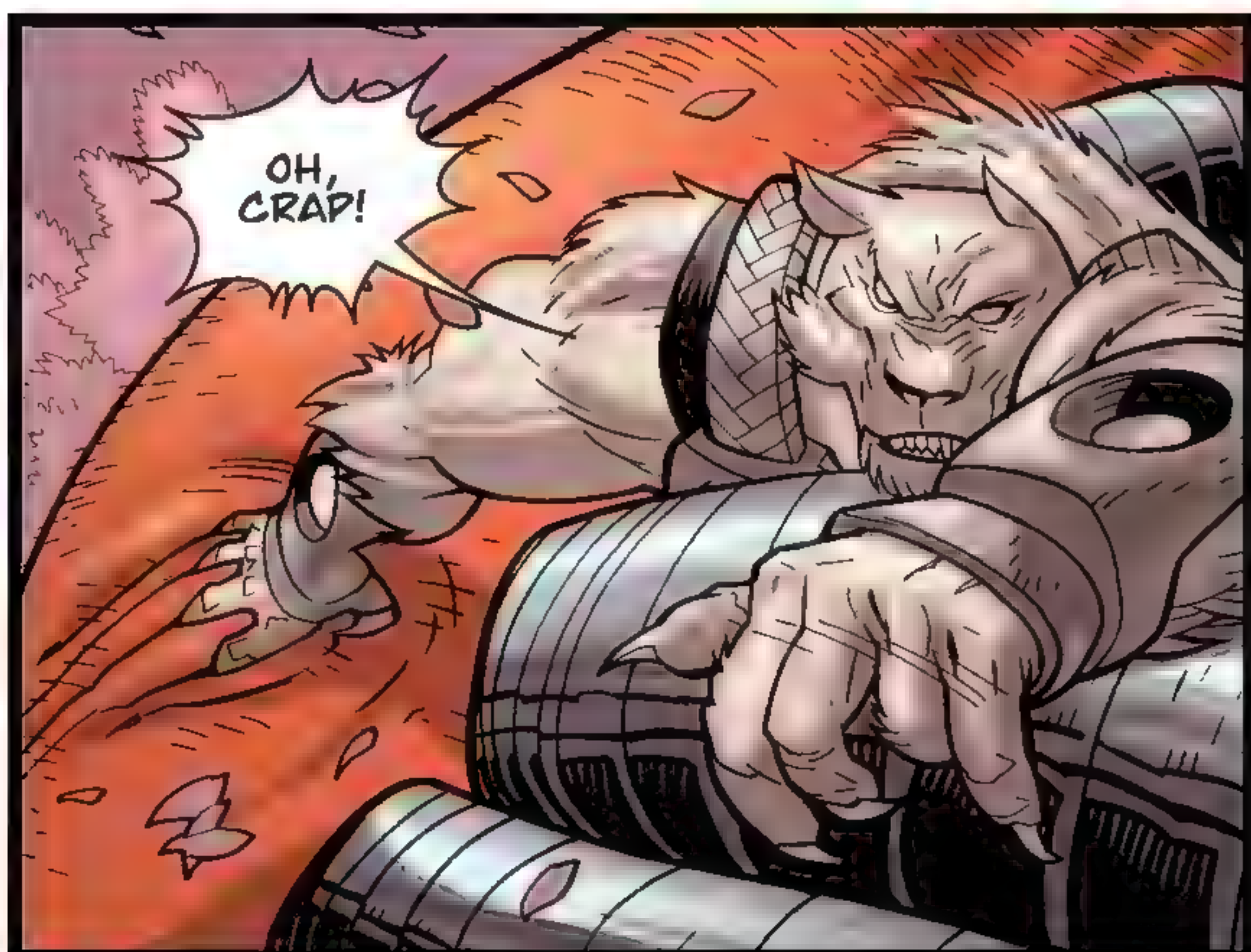
MAYBE THIS WASN'T THE BEST IDEA--

WHAT WAS I THINKING?

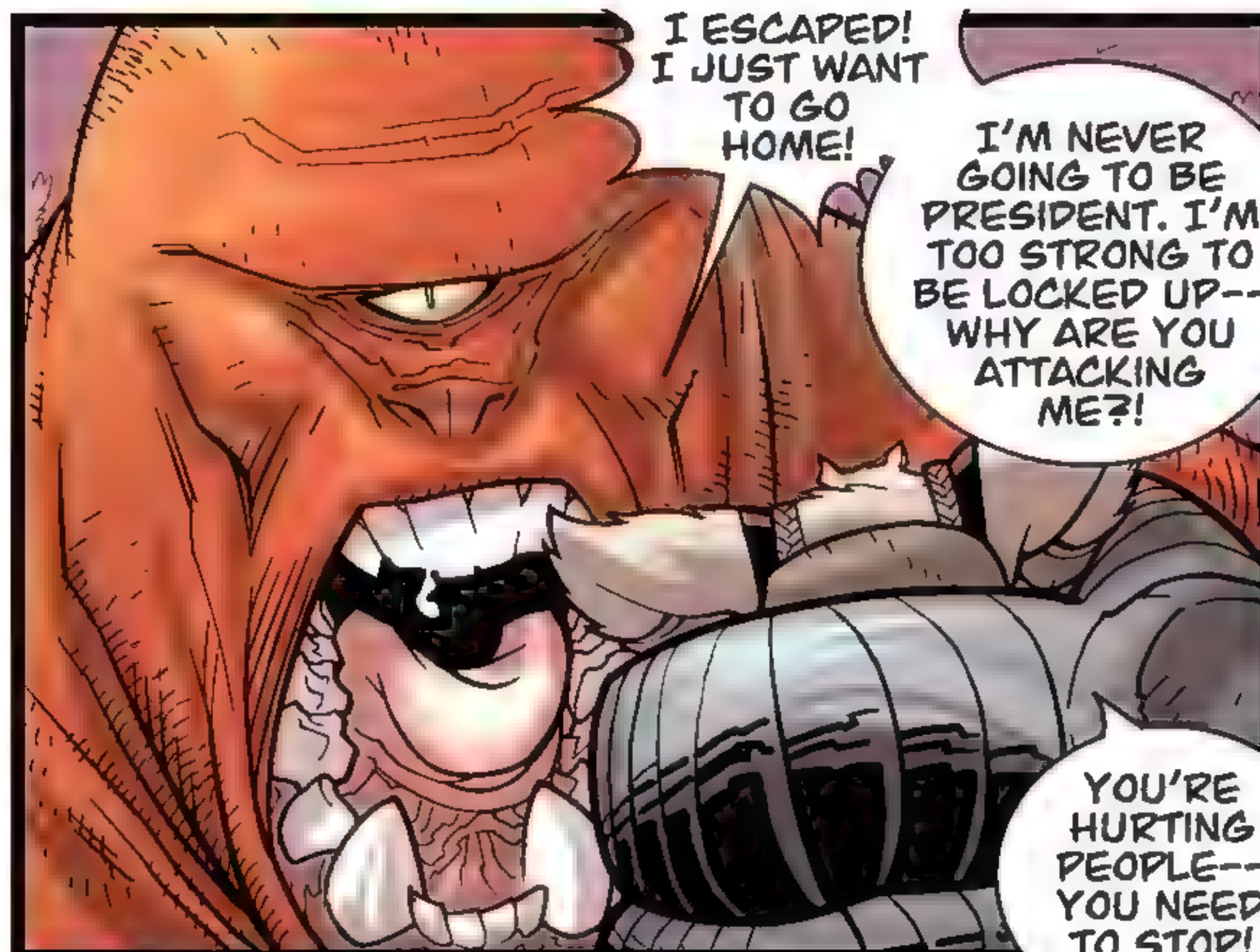


YOU'RE HURTING ME! THAT'S NOT FAIR!

JUST LEAVE ME ALONE--I JUST WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE!



OH, CRAP!



I ESCAPED! I JUST WANT TO GO HOME!

I'M NEVER GOING TO BE PRESIDENT. I'M TOO STRONG TO BE LOCKED UP-- WHY ARE YOU ATTACKING ME?!

YOU'RE HURTING PEOPLE-- YOU NEED TO STOP!



COULD
HAVE GONE
THE REST OF MY
LIFE WITHOUT
FIGHTING
THIS GUY
AGAIN.



WIPAKOON



I'VE GOT YOU--
WHAT'S THE
SITUATION
HERE?

SEEMS
THIS GUY'S
ON HIS WAY
SOMEWHERE--
HE DOESN'T
MAKE A
WHOLE LOT
OF SENSE.

I KNOW
A LITTLE
ABOUT HIM...
NOT MUCH.

I DON'T
KNOW IF HE'S
KILLED ANYONE--
HE TRAMPLED A
FEW TRUCKS--
HE'S BAD NEWS,
I WAS TRYING
TO STOP HIM.

WHO DARES?!

I WAS
A KING! I
LED A
KINGDOM!

WHO
DARES
STRIKE
ME?!

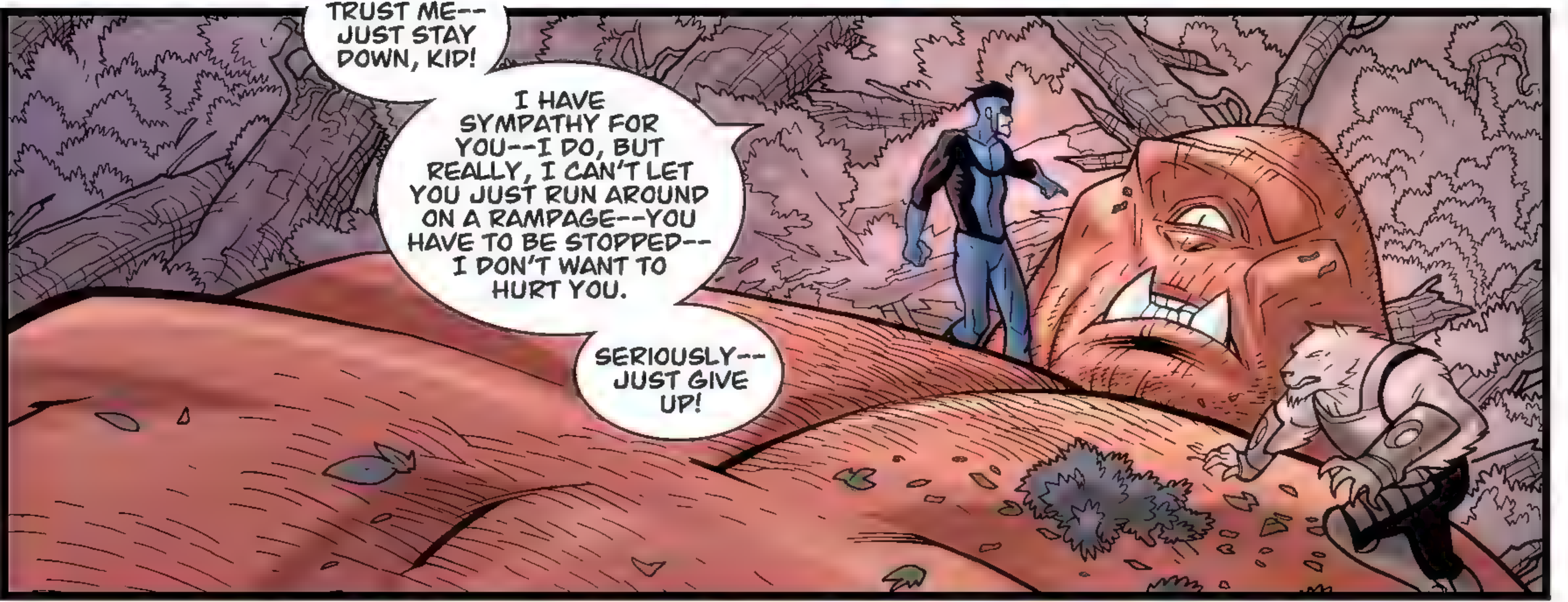
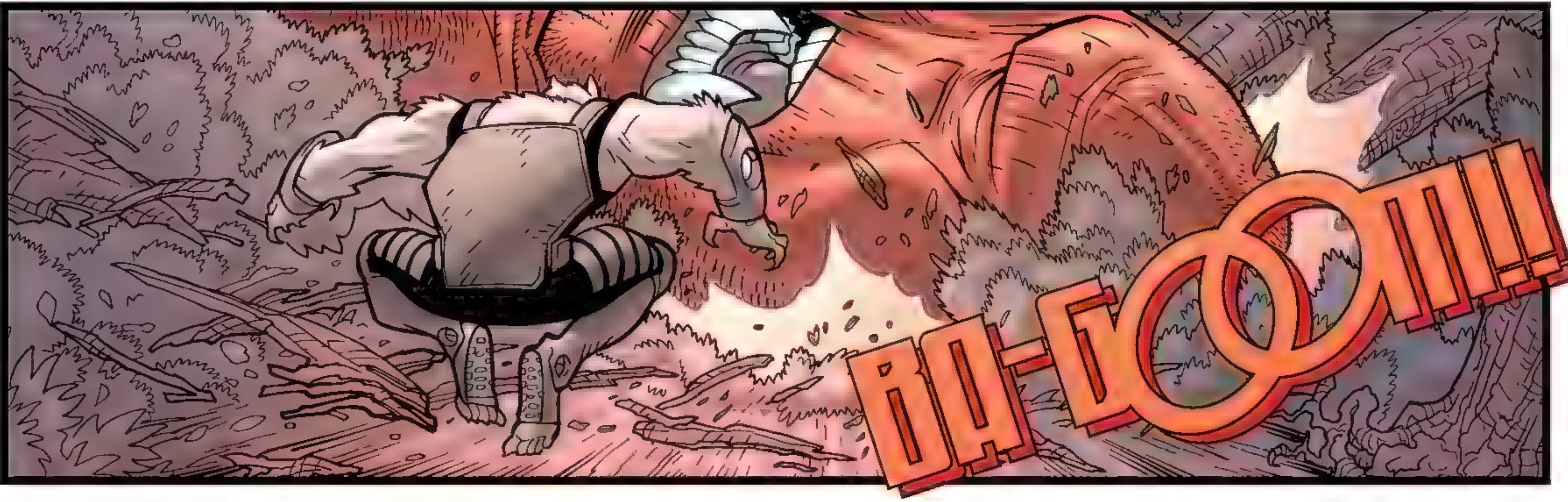
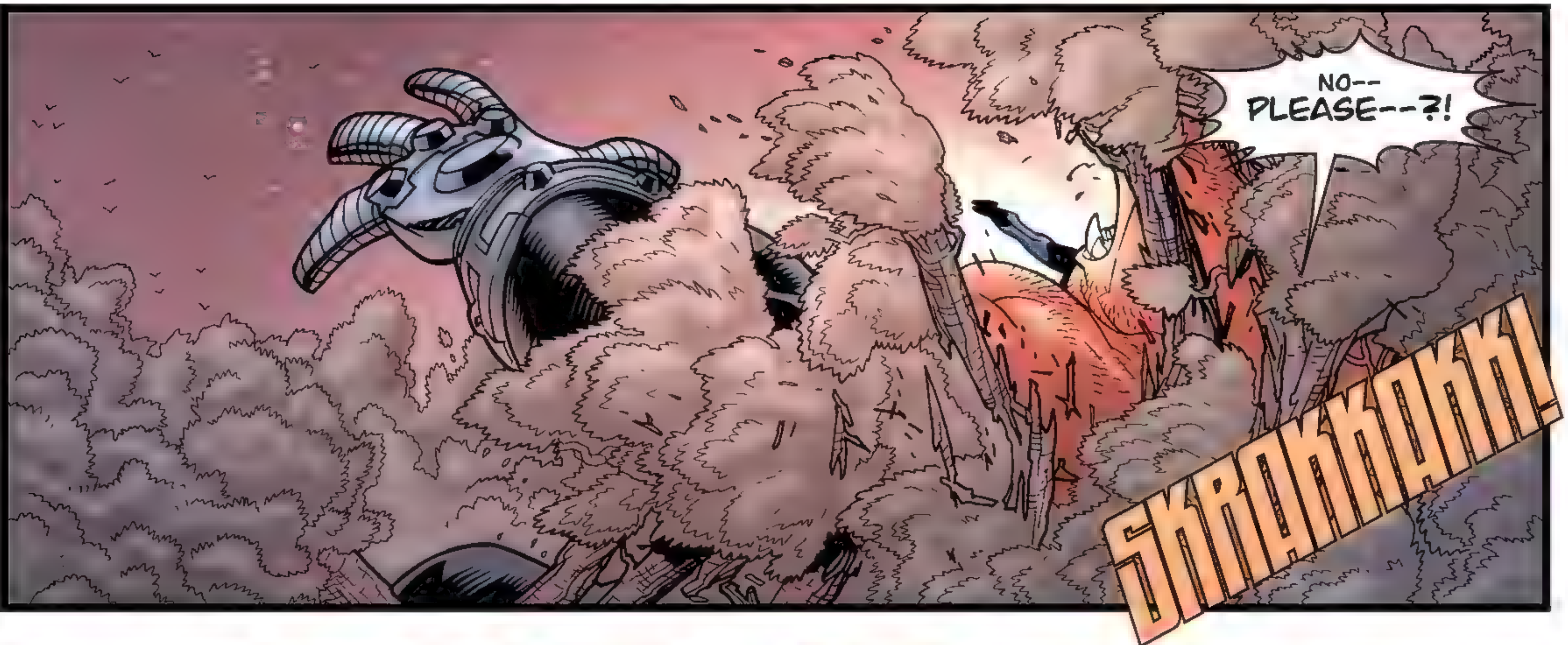
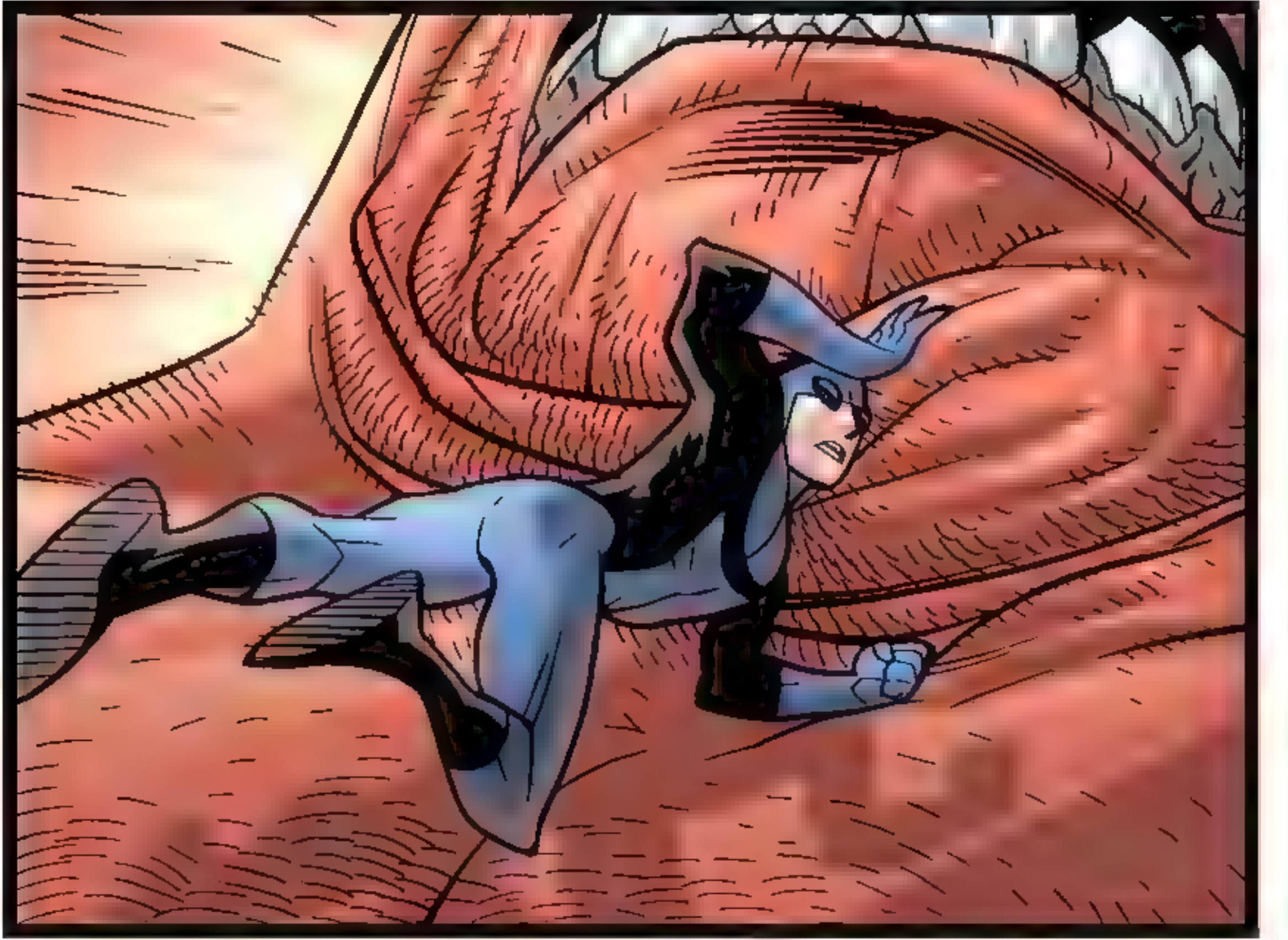
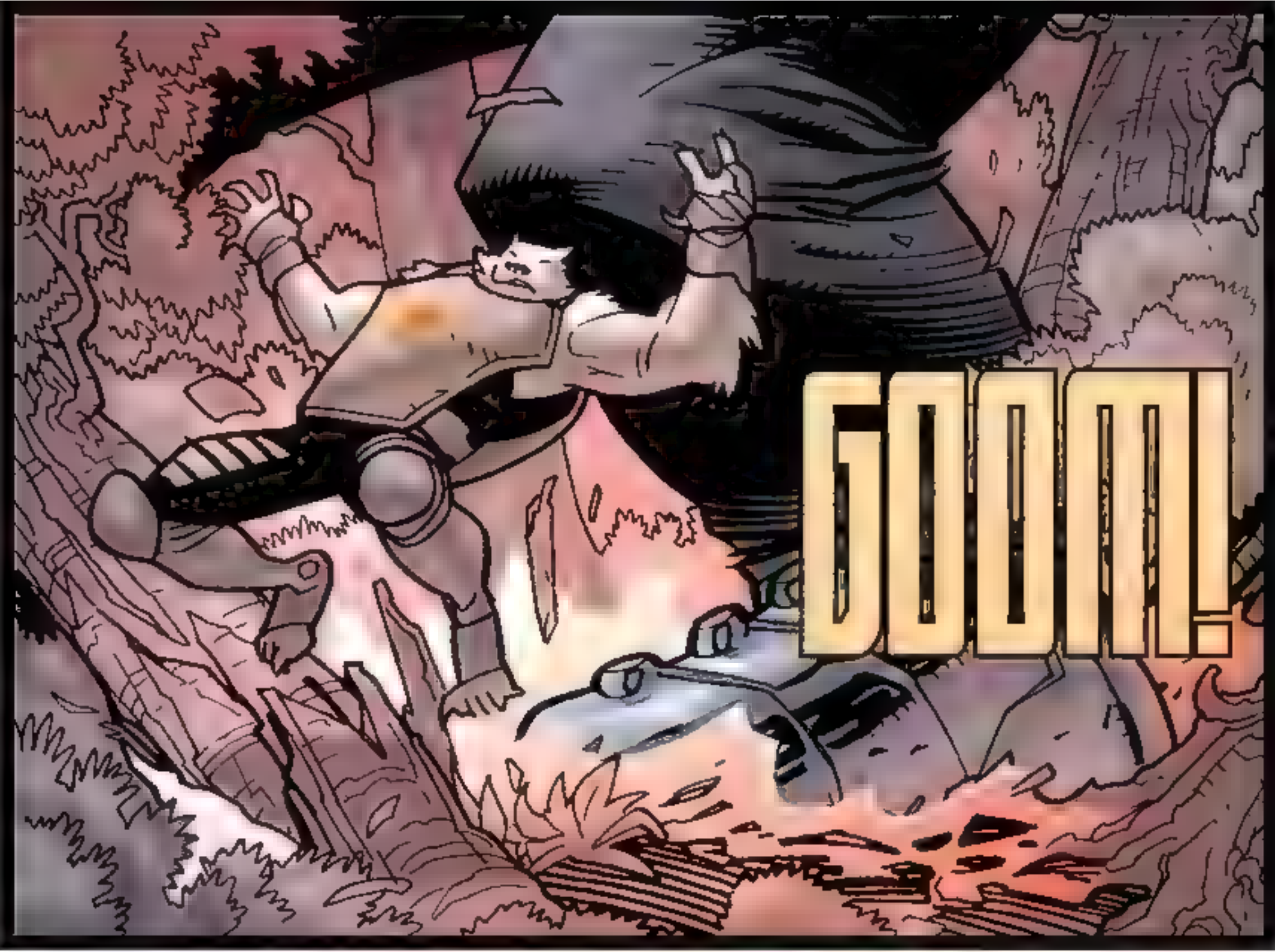
WHO?!

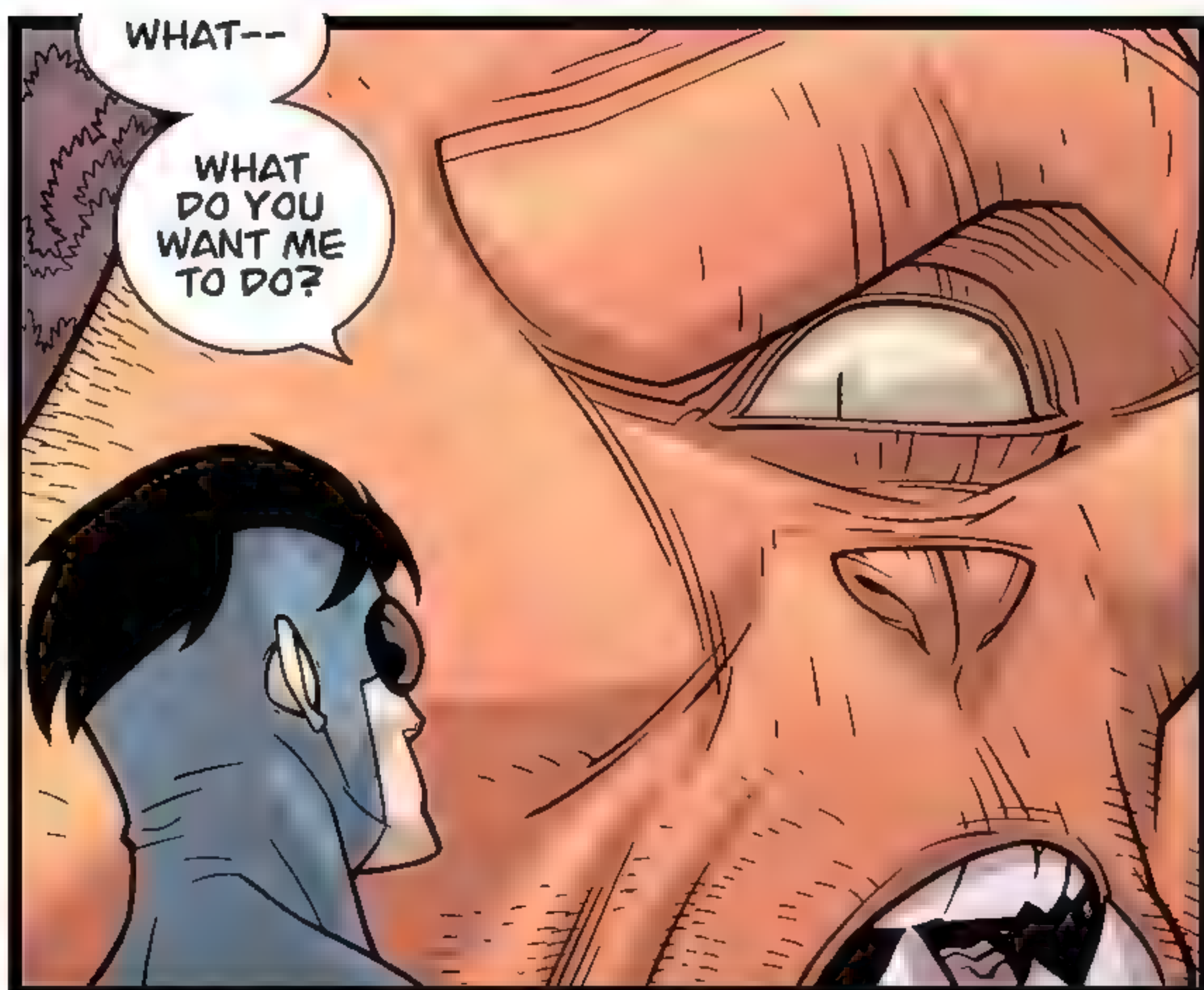
BRONKKKOOOO!!!

THAT
WOULD
BE ME.

YOU--
IRK!!

WIROKKI!





WHAT--

WHAT
DO YOU
WANT ME
TO DO?



JUST--I DON'T
KNOW--SIT HERE
QUIETLY UNTIL
SOMEONE COMES
ALONG TO TAKE
YOU INTO
CUSTODY.

THEY'RE
JUST GOING
TO TRY AND
HELP YOU.

LET
THEM.



WHAT WAS
THAT ALL
ABOUT?

HE'S JUST A KID--
GOT PULLED INTO SOME
OTHER DIMENSION--
TURNED INTO THAT THING.
THEY GOT HIM IN SOME
KIND OF FACILITY OUT
HERE--MUST HAVE
ESCAPED.

GOVERNMENT'S
TRYING TO TURN
HIM BACK INTO A
NORMAL KID--IT
ISN'T GOING
WELL.

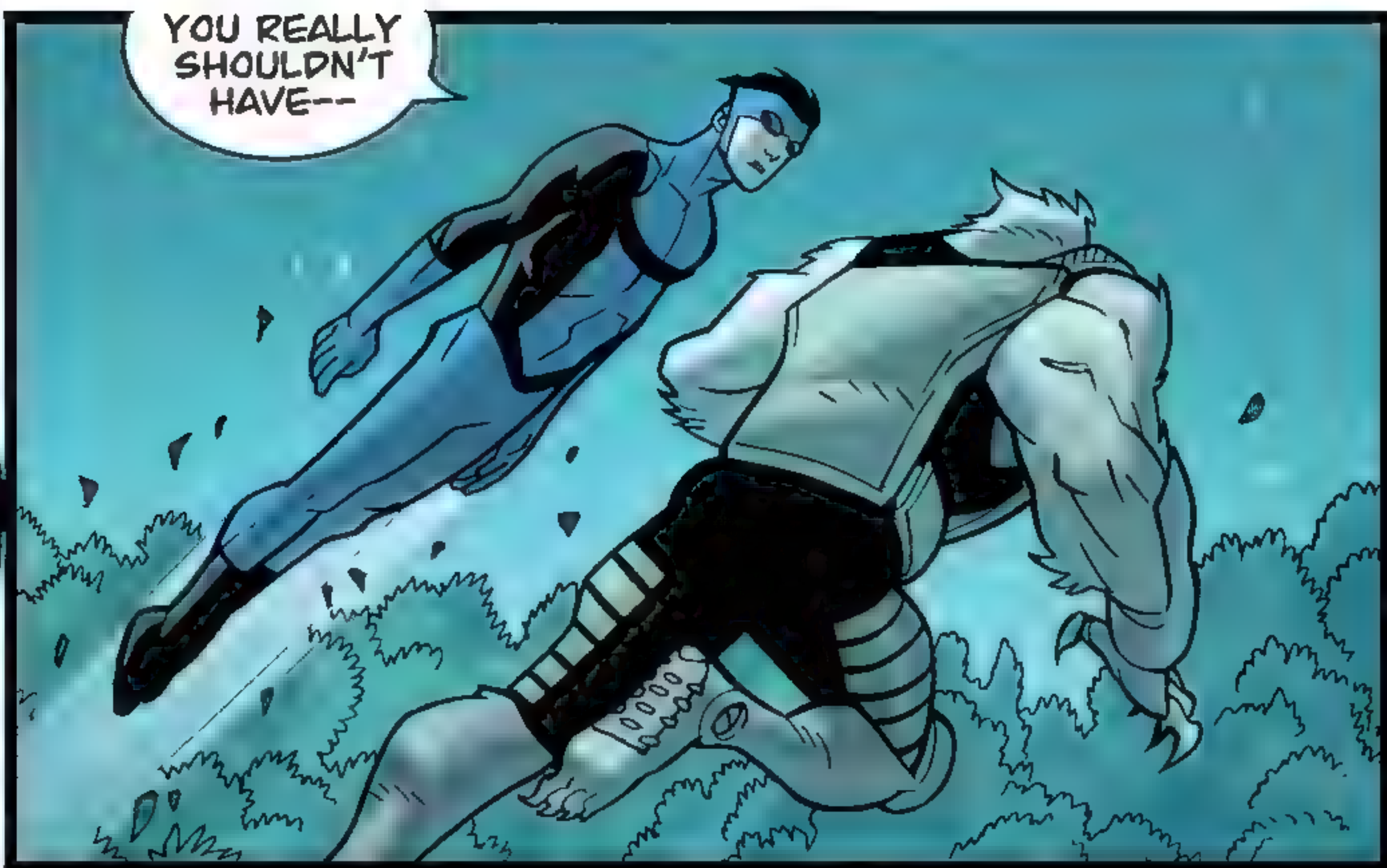


WELL, THANKS.
I DON'T THINK I
COULD HAVE
HANDLED HIM
ON MY OWN.



I OWE YOU FOR
HELPING ME OUT
WITH DOC SEISMIC
A FEW WEEKS
BACK.

STILL
THOUGH--
I'M GOING
TO HAVE TO
TURN YOU IN.





SORRY, I
REALLY DON'T
WANT TO
HEAR IT.

PLEASE--
JUST STOP. I
CAN EXPLAIN--
I DIDN'T KILL
MY WIFE. I
DIDN'T.

MY DAUGHTER--
SHE SAW ME WITH
MY WIFE'S BODY--
THAT'S WHY THEY
THINK I DID IT. BUT
THAT'S NOT WHAT
HAPPENED, I
SWEAR.



YOUR
DAUGHTER?

SHE SAW
YOU?

I FOUND MY WIFE LIKE
THAT--DEAD ON THE FLOOR.
I HELD HER, I DIDN'T
KNOW WHAT ELSE
TO DO.

CHLOE--
MY DAUGHTER--
SHE FOUND US
LIKE THAT.



I'M
SORRY,
THAT'S--

--ARE
YOU LYING
TO ME?

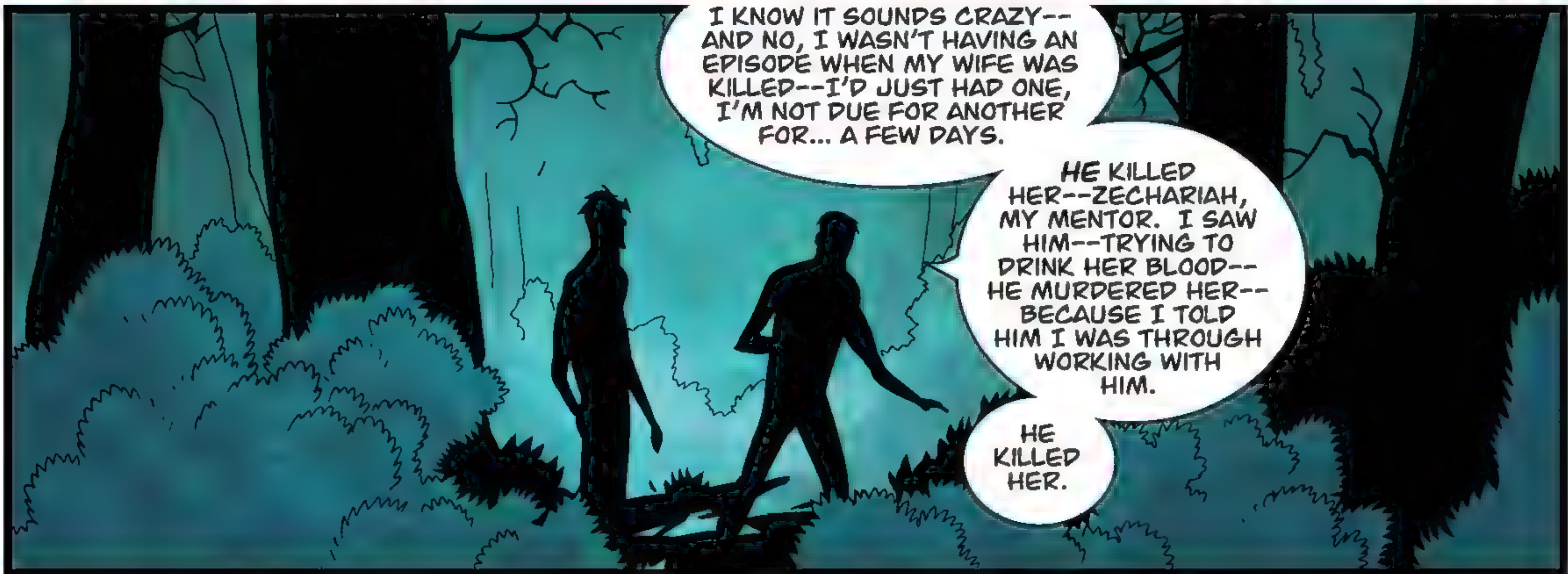
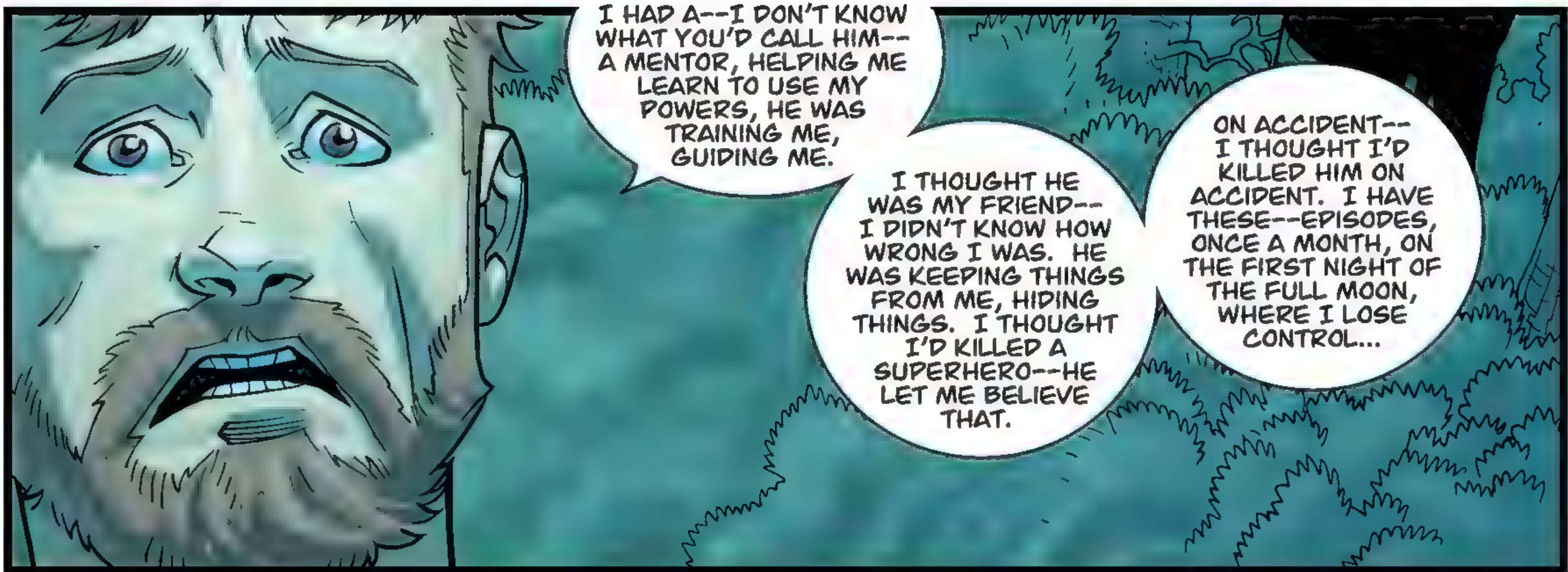


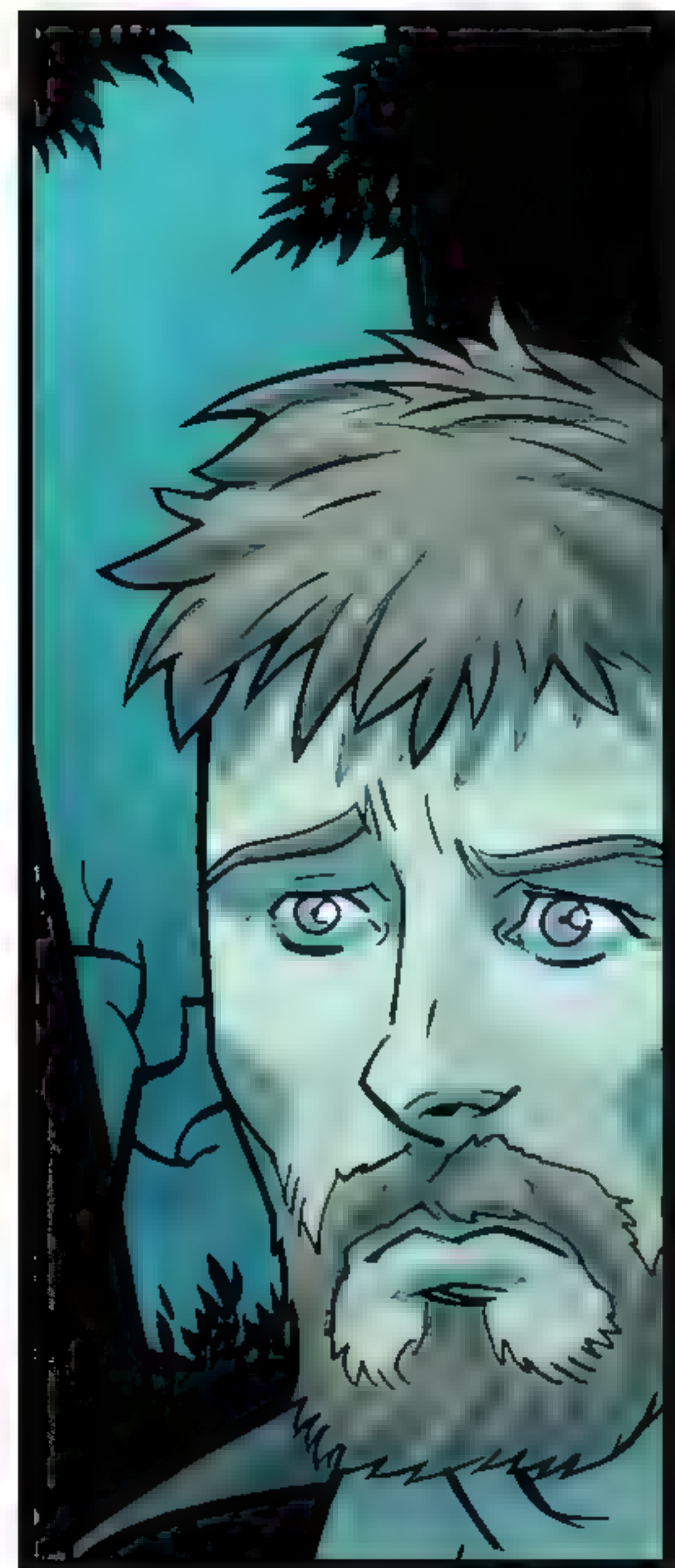
NO, I'M NOT--LOOK, I'M
REVERTING BACK TO MY
HUMAN FORM--I'M
HELPLESS--I'M NOT
GOING TO FIGHT BACK,
I'M NOT TRYING TO
TRICK YOU.

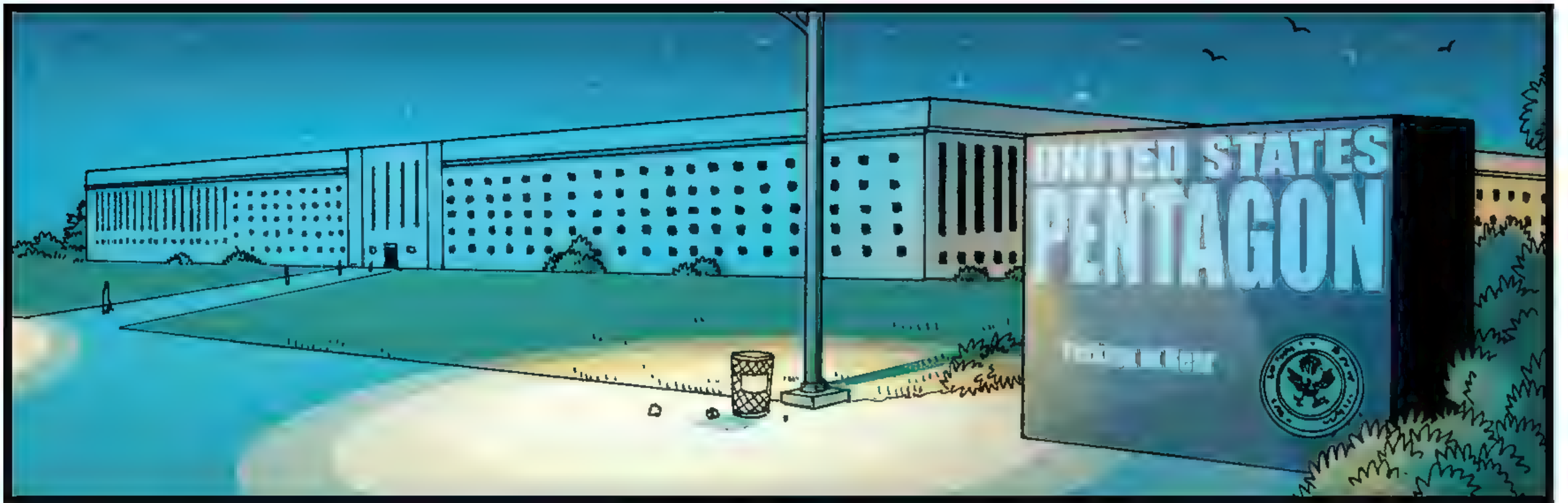
I DIDN'T
KILL MY WIFE.
PLEASE--
PLEASE
BELIEVE
ME.

I JUST
NEED
SOMEBODY
TO BELIEVE
ME.

IF YOU
DIDN'T KILL
HER--THEN
WHO DID?





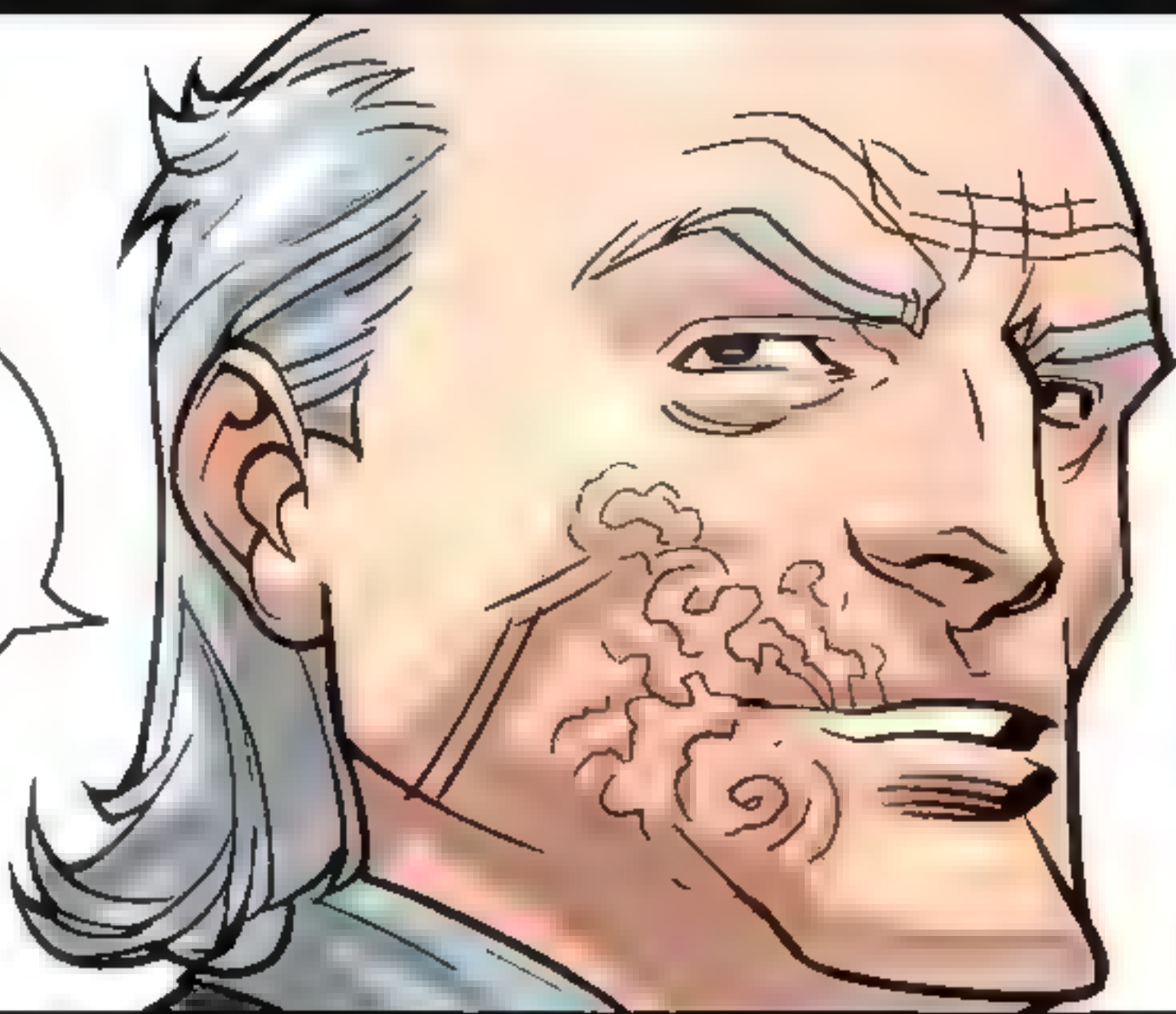


BRAVO, KID. I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT.

AND--- DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME--- YOU GOT HIM TO DO IT--- VOLUNTARILY?

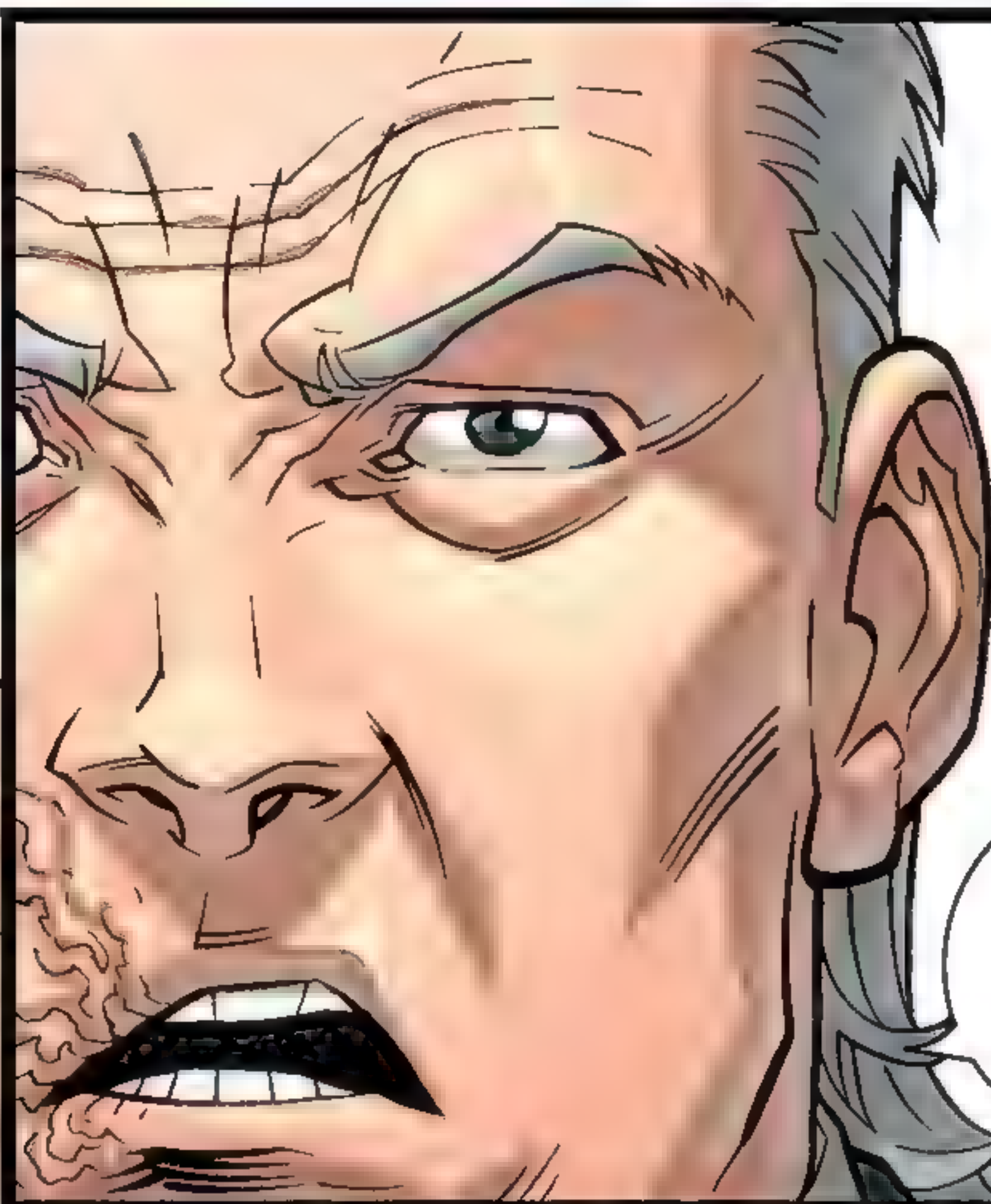
DIDN'T EXPECT THAT. KID'S GOOD.

IMPRESSIVE.



THANKS, BUT HE'S NOT HERE TO TURN HIMSELF IN.

HE'S HERE TO TALK.

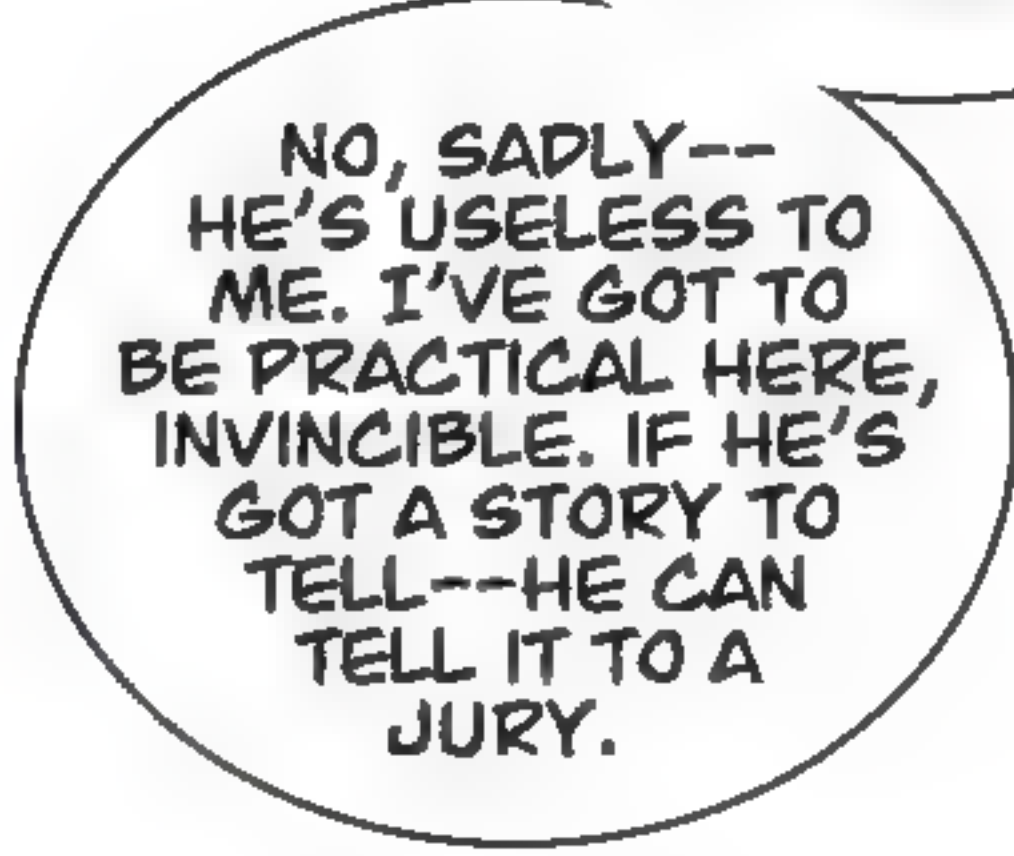
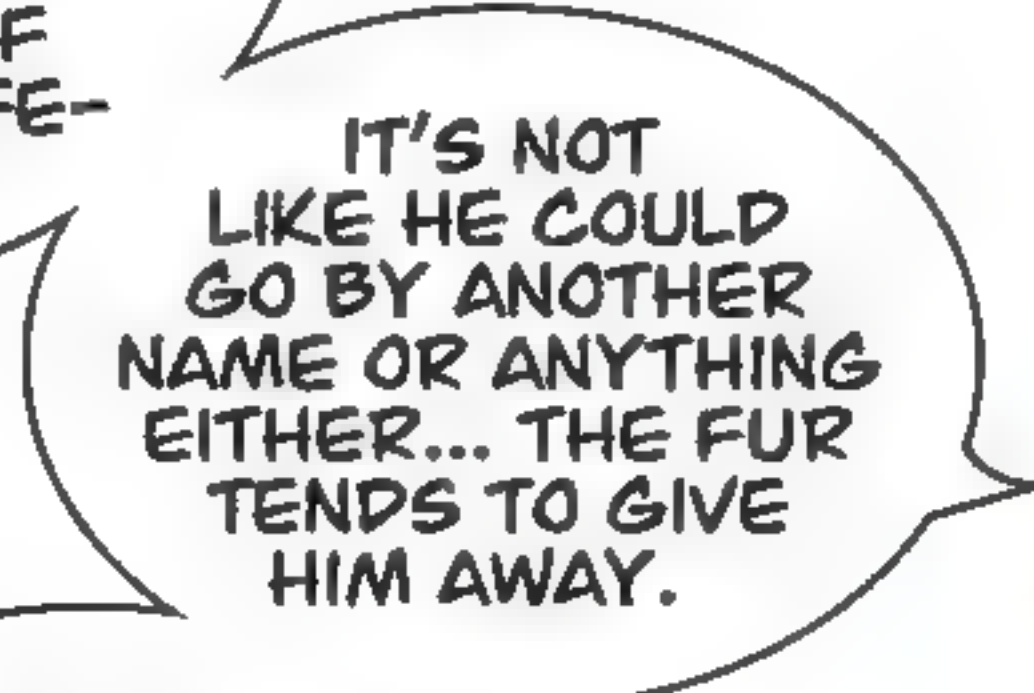
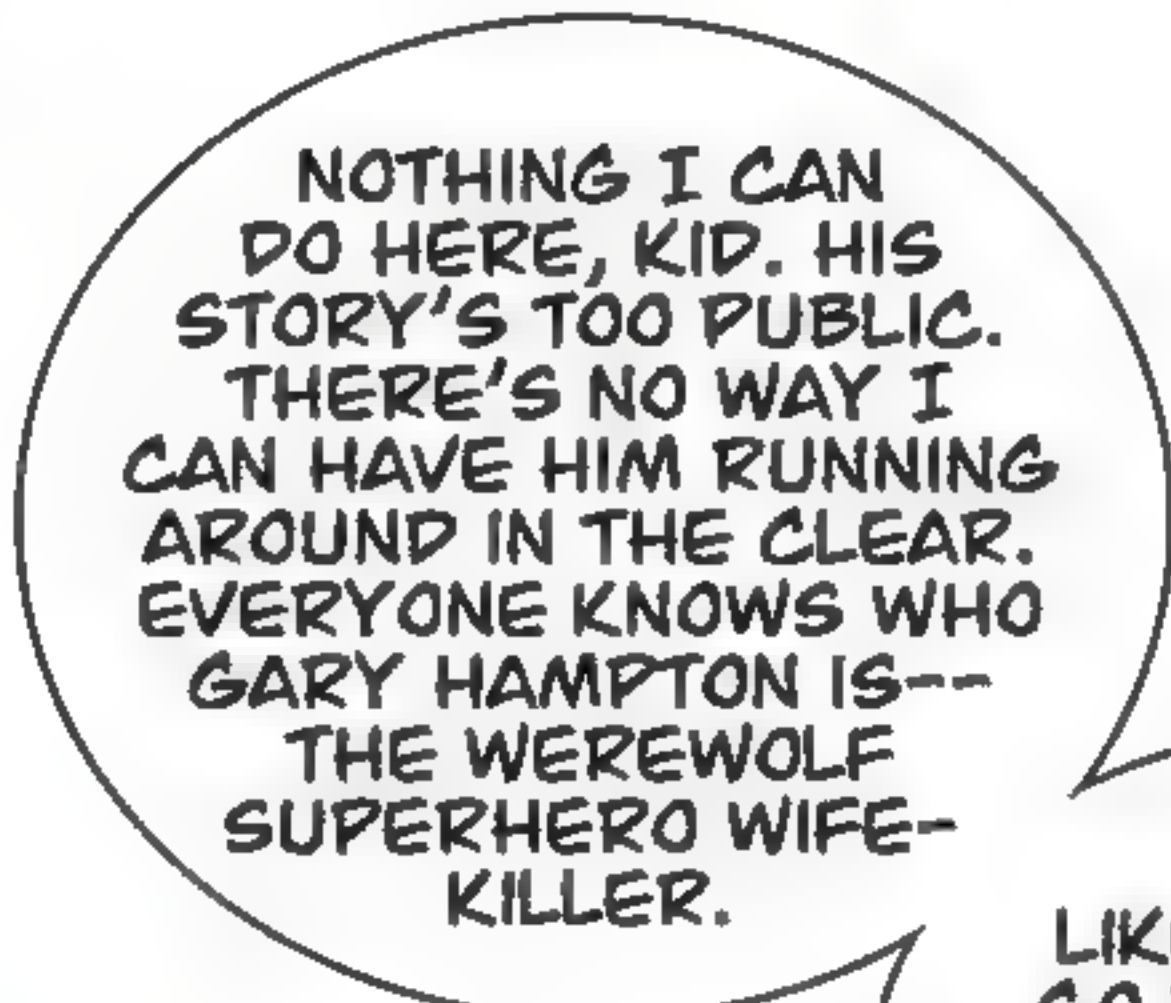
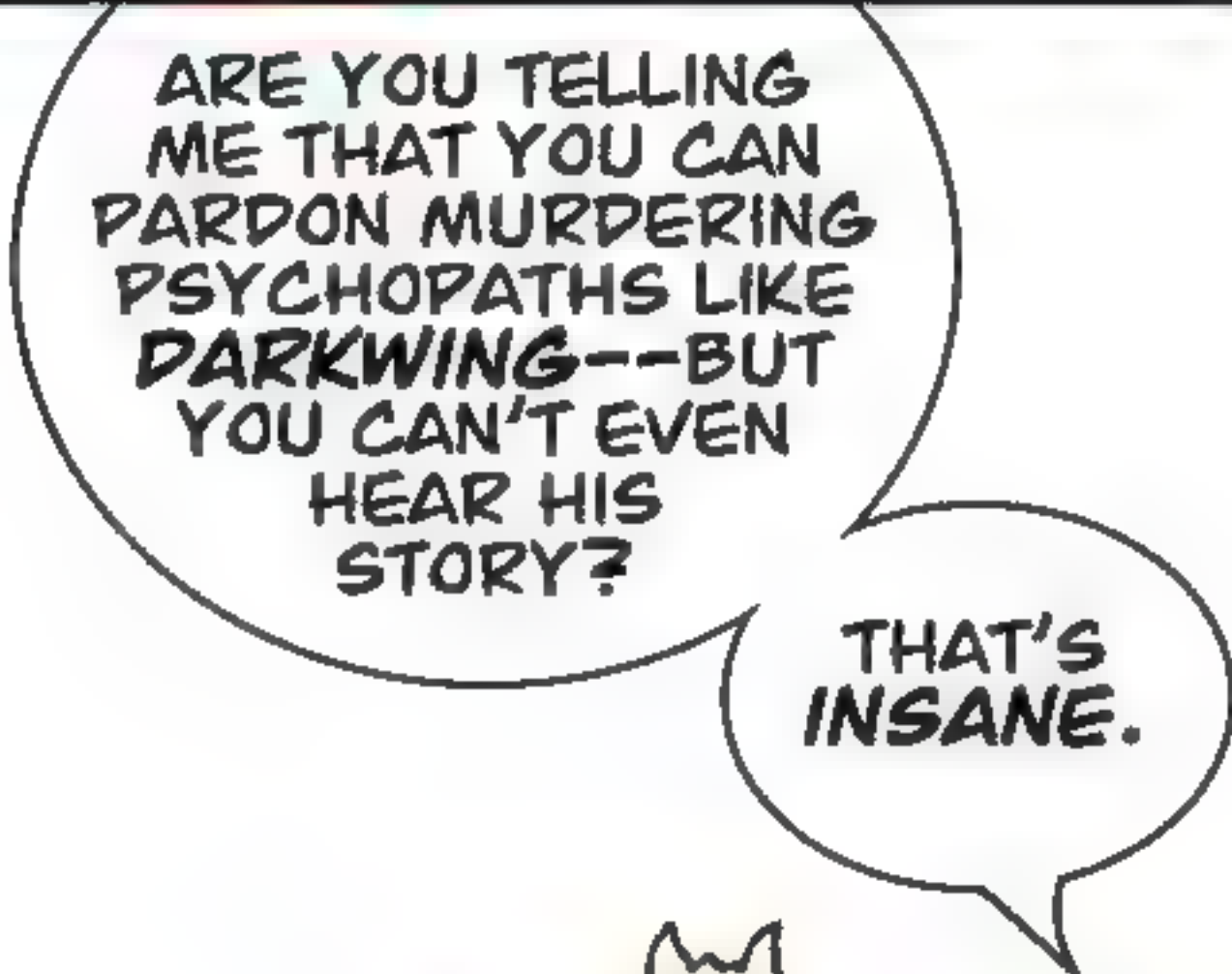


THAT WASN'T PART OF THE DEAL, KID.

HE CAN TALK TO HIS LAWYER. WE'RE ARRESTING HIM.

THEN I'M CHANGING THE DEAL. YOU CAN LISTEN TO WHAT HE HAS TO SAY---THAT DOESN'T HURT ANYTHING.







OH,
GREAT.

THIS
AGAIN.

TO BE CONTINUED IN

THE ASTOUNDING

WOLF-MAN
#11!

WRITE US @

INVINCIBLE

C/O FUNK-O-TRON

P.O. BOX 54386

LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

INVINCIBLE PRINCIPALS

Welcome one and all to the first of our two part crossover with **THE ASTOUNDING WOLF-MAN**! Please make sure to purchase **The Astounding Wolf-Man 11** to get the other half of the story. If you just dive on into issue 58 next month—you'll be missing out!

The Astounding Wolf-Man 11, should either be on sale the same DAY as this issue... or the following week, that's still up in the air right now due to the holiday printing schedule. I hope that helps.

That said, you guys are all already buying The Astounding Wolf-Man, right? So you guys already have your copies reserved and waiting on you—good.

You guys are great.

Let's answer some mail shall we?

Hello Mr. Kirkman,

Imagine my pleasant surprise at learning that a new issue of Invincible would be out a brief three weeks after the previous issue. I was stoked. I was excited. I had to wait yet another week, because a certain comics shipping company (which shall remain nameless) did not give the proper shipment to my comic book shop.

But then I got it last Wednesday! And it was great! I could go into all of the intricacies and nuances of your work, but that could get boring, so I'll just say what I enjoyed: Mark getting pissed at his mom, Mark getting mad that he got pissed at his mom, Mark getting with Eve, Mark getting into fight with stony faced guy, giant dragon guy breaking other guy out of jail, and little brother acting like angelic tyke when he's really going to make Mark sorry later. You know this can only end in tragedy.

Well, there are a couple other options... we'll see.

And I do have to comment on something. In addition to that Nate in the letter's column, I started picking up Invincible because of your work in Astounding Wolf-Man #1 (Director's Cut). I picked up that issue just because it seemed like such a great concept: werewolves and superheroes. It's a concept that just works, like secret agents stopping terrorists, or librarians fighting space aliens. And I liked the series so much, that I decided to look into whatever else you wrote.

Anyway, thanks for the great series. I look forward to seeing what happens next.

Sincerely,
Chris Maher

Yay—chalk one up for The Astounding Wolf-Man. I hope you're enjoying the crossover so far, Chris.

Dear Kirkman,

I found this issue to be not very well thought-out! In fact the facts of it escape me – a lot like they did Immortal this issue! I didn't like it, but, who cares, right? Next issue: Viltrumites!!! And who were these guys who took 'Vince back to the future anyhow? I didn't catch their names, strangely enough – have they appeared before or something? When? Thanks for printing my letters and looking forward to the Viltrumite saga... but what's this: Final confrontation!?

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

Well... you got me Andrew. Those two guys from the future are named FIGHTMASTER and DROP KICK and they first appeared in issue 46 (which wasn't THAT long ago—you should remember) but I just skimmed the issue, and as near as I can tell... I didn't mention them by name at all. Groan. Sorry about that.

As you know by now, issue 55 set the ball in motion leading up to the big battle with the viltrumites that this series has been working towards since the beginning! And just wait until you guys see what happens after THAT!

Big stuff ahead, kids.

Dear Mr. Kirkman and Mr. Ottley,

Wow. I have to say that issue #54 of Invincible is probably the best single issue I've read since #23. That's not to say that there haven't been absolutely fantastic issues in between—there have been many – but this one is, in my opinion, cream of the crop.

Just when Andrew was starting to make me feel bad...

It was a great self-contained story for one, and I'm actually not always a big fan of those because I like to see longer developed plots, but it didn't pop-up out of nowhere either. You had introduced the two heroes of the future already, and shown us that Eve was getting discontent with her new relationship with Mark. Then you gave us a fast but entirely entertaining story with the great surprise of a future ruled by the Immortal. Fantastic. I also appreciate that it laid down more plot points to be explored in the future (no pun intended).

And of course, you guys concluded with Ryan's beautiful four-

page montage of Mark and Eve. I especially liked the second two pages showing all the key stages in their relationship since meeting in issue #2. Please don't break them up. They're the new Peter and MJ.

They're more like the new Peter and Gwen... OOP!

The other stuff you guys have been doing with the series since issue #50 (and before that, of course!) is great. Although I wouldn't say that issues #52 and #53 were my favorite ever, I feel that we're really building to something big. I'm definitely psyched (and surprised) to see Angstrom Levy back, as well as his possible team-up with Oliver?

And Ryan, your art is fantastic. Please don't ever leave this book. You've made the artistic style entirely your own, and you're an excellent visual storyteller. This book wouldn't be the smash hit that it is without you.

Props also to FCO Plascencia for some great coloring that definitely sets the tone. I also appreciate that Cliff Rathburn stepped in to help you guys catch up to your schedule – great work everybody!

Again, thanks for a terrific story. Please don't stop.

Appreciatively,
Rob Luff

No plans to stop any time soon—that's for sure!

YE GODS!

I liked what you did with #54; a touching little romantic interlude, with some sci-fi action, and on top of all of that, significant further developments of the Invinciverse (albeit in a "possible future" kind of way, I'm sure). All of that, and Mark got to keep his promise to not interrupt the date, courtesy of some clever paradox-surfing which reminded me just a little of Alan Moore's brilliant "Chronocops" story.

Chronocops? I've never heard of that.

Yeah, I just compared you to Sir Alan of Moore. Can I have a free t-shirt?

I'd never get around to mailing it to you—I do appreciate the comparison though.

Anyway, despite the graphic beheading, #54 was a sweet change of pace from the recent angst with Oliver. Then I saw the "Next Issue" blurb and it seems that the romantic interlude will turn out to be just the calm before the storm. Brilliant!

Kelvin Green

We do try to keep things lively here at Invincible central.

Dear K-to-the-irkman,

What's going down, my fellow Midwest holmes? I have a question for ya that I've been thinking about since all the way

back in issue #25: Rudy, the Robot-controlling lump of ugly that he was, stole Rex's DNA to make himself a body, that much is obvious. But with him being an absolute genius and all, you think he woulda tried to take Invincible's DNA...I mean a Viltrumite body woulda been so much more useful to Rudy (not to mention cooler); hell, a Rex clone doesn't even have natural superpowers. So, I thought you could just shoot me the 411 on all of that!

Rudy knew that Monster Girl was attracted to Rex... that's why he picked that body. He witnessed her checking Rex out shortly before he stole Rex's DNA. He's already super smart and has a bunch or robot bodies... he doesn't need Mark's body.

Second, I'm totally diggin' the path you've taken the Immortal down in issue #54...I cannot wait to see that story develop in the coming issues...I hope that's something you definitely decide to roll with!

Keep 'em coming,
Brad Ross

I have a lot of big plans for the Immortal—I dig him quite a bit. So by all means—stay tuned!

I'm getting a really bad deja vu feeling that this whole issue is just set up for when Angstrom kills Eve. But then I remembered that this book is better than every other cookie-cutter superhero title out there.

Ulp!

So my thoughts and fears are completely unjustified and Invincible is not going to turn into cliché-city.

Right?

Right?!

Hello?!!

Crickets?!!!!

Kris Ehrig

Gulp!

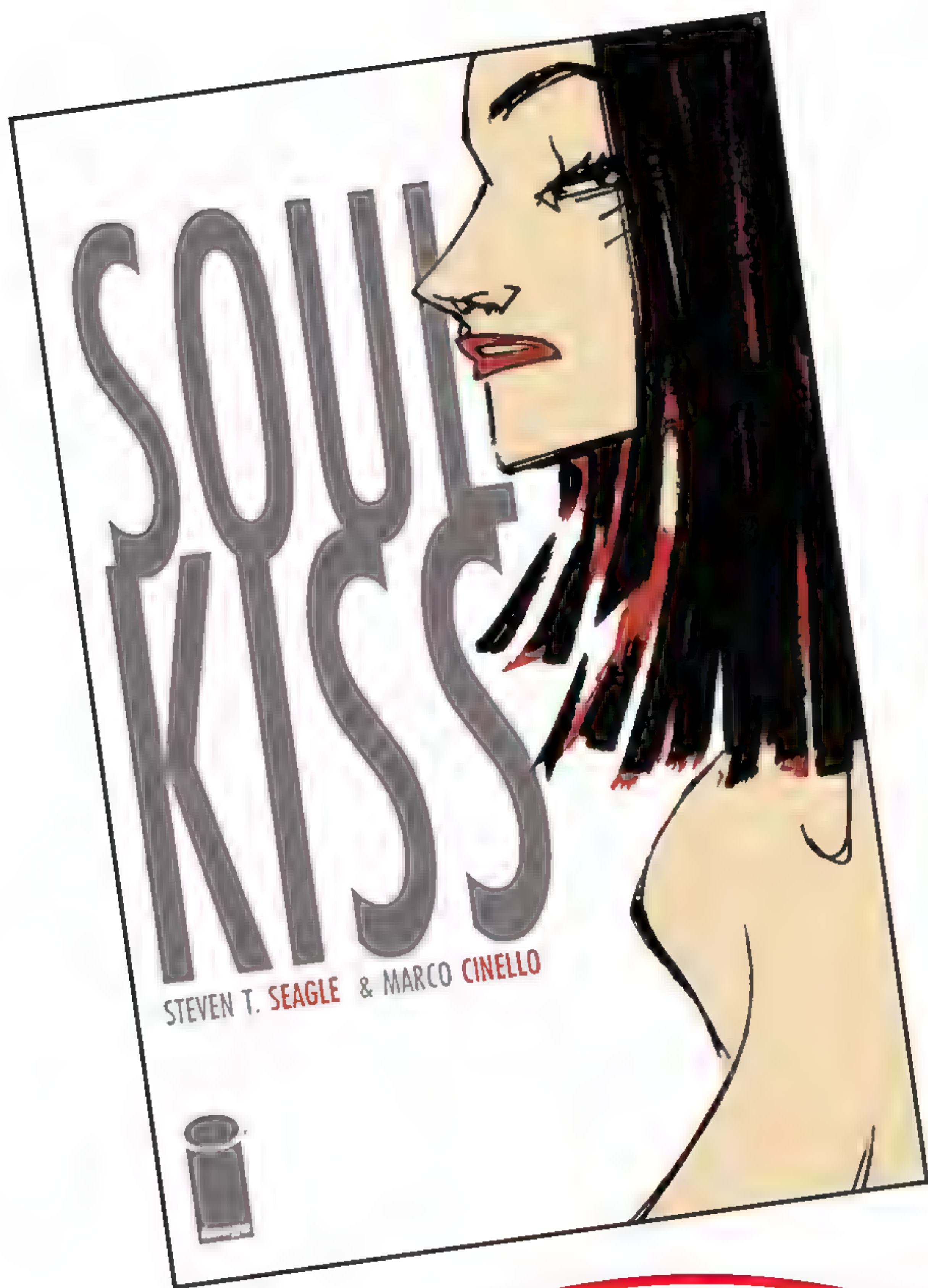
PS: Do something with the website please.

The new and improved www.kirkmania.com has gone live! Created by the big brain behind hiddenrobot.com, Tim Daniel. Please check it out—and sign up for KIRKSPAM!

That's it for this month, kids. I'll see you all back here next month—the start of "ON TIME IN '09!" Wish us luck!!

—Robert Kirkman





JOE KELLY • JOE CASEY • DUNCAN ROULEAU • STEVEN T. SEAGLE



Soul Kiss

A story of love, damnation and lipstick by Steven T. Seagle and Marco Cinello.

The Great Unknown

A mind-robbing whodunit written and drawn by Duncan Rouleau.

Bad Dog

An irredeemably corrupt comic not fit for children (or parents) by Joe Kelly and Diego Greco.

Codeflesh

The bail bondsman of super-villains returns in a re-mastered, deluxe edition color hardcover.

FEBRUARY

2009



IMAGE UNITED



ROB LIEFELD

JIM VALENTINO

TODD McFARLANE

ERIK LARSEN

WHILCE PORTACIO

MARC SILVESTRI

written by
ROBERT KIRKMAN

2009

**dan
McDAID**

**glen
BRUNSWICK**

JERSEY GOODS



FEBRUARY 2009!



NEXT ISSUE

YOUNG LOVE...



The background of the cover is a dynamic comic book illustration. It features a large, green, scaly dragon-like creature with a fierce expression, its mouth open in a roar. The creature is set against a backdrop of a blue sky with white clouds and a cityscape. A yellow shield with a black cross-like symbol is visible on the right side of the illustration. The title 'SAVAGE DRAGON' is prominently displayed in the center, with 'SAVAGE' in a smaller, blue, outlined font and 'DRAGON' in a much larger, bold, blue, outlined font with a 3D effect.

SAVAGE DRAGON

BACK IN BLUE

FEATURING PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA!

FEBRUARY 2009

IMAGECOMICS.COM

